Series, Vol. XXVII—No. 21

Friday, March 6, 1959
Phalguna 15, 1880 (*Saka*)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Seventh Session)

(Vol. XXVII contains Nos. 21—30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

(INLAND) THREE SHILLINGS (FOREIGN)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 6, 1959/Phalguna 15, 1880 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cement Production

+

*964. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cement production in the country does not correspond to the installed capacities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The production of cement as against the rated capacity for 1958 is indicated below:—

Rated capacity:

6,812,567.

Production:

6,065,118 (about 89 to 90 per cent. of utilisation).

The variations in the quantum of production are generally due to reasons like shortage of electric power, electrical and mechanical breakdowns, stoppage of kilns on account of periodical repairs, and shortage of workable orders. As can be seen, the ratio of utilisation of the rated capacity is quite satisfactory. There has been a temporary glut of cement in the market but the off-take is expected to improve.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether this installed capacity will be increased during this coming year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. During the current year we expect it to rise to 8·5 million tons and by the end of the Second Plan to almost ten million tons.

Shri Panigrahi: In the statement it has been stated that owing to the want of electric power the production has suffered so far as cement is concerned. May I know in which part of the country production of cement has suffered due to the shortage of electric power?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Due to temporary dislocation of power in three factories, that is, one in Madras, one in Sawai Madhopur and one in Bihar, production has temporarily suffered for a period of fifteen days to a month.

Shri P. R. Ramakrishnan: Out of the targets laid down in the Second Five Year Plan, how much is allocated to new factories and how much is allocated for expansion of existing factories?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Out of 59 schemes approved by the Government, 31 are for new factories and 28 for expansion.

Shri Dasappa: May I take it that the factories which they have sanctioned as new projects will go through according to schedule?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. As I have indicated before the House, out of these 59 schemes, 14 have already been implemented, 17 have been covered for implementation by import licences etc. and 28 are pending. Government are reviewing the position every six months in view of the fact that as there is a temporary glut of cement in the market to what extent further capacity should be allowed.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अभी तक सीमेंट का जितना उत्पादन बढ़ गया है और जो बढ़ने वाला है, उस से क्या यह आशा की जाती है कि हमारे देश में सीमेंट की कोई कमी नहीं रहेगी और सीमेंट का कंट्रोल करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सीमेंट की कमी तो नहीं है । दो लाख टन हम ने एक्सपोर्ट करने का सोचा था, जिस में से १,३१,००० टन का सौदा हो चुका है और हम ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं ।

Shri Dasappa: May I know when the next review is likely to take place and whether in view of the programme set out here for 1,200 miles of highways, production of steel and so on, the demand for cement will also not go up?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We do hope that the demand and the off-take should go up. But temporarily, as I mentioned, there is a glut. The review takes place at the beginning of every licensing period. The next review is due in April, 1959.

Shri Ranga: I am glad that the hon. Minister has referred only to the temporary glut, but in view of the fact that Government is thinking of having various schemes specially in the direction of construction of housing and so on, why is it that Government wish to give so much prominence to the so-called temporary glut and in that way stall the permission that they have to give for foreign exchange in order to enable these people to import the necessary machinery for the construction of these factories?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The whole idea has to be looked into in a proper perspective and I hope the House will agree with that if the present rated capacity of 7·4 million tons is to increase by another 30 to 40 lakh tons, *i.e.*, 3 to 4 million tons. it is not a small increase. We have already covered 10 million tons and therefore we have to carefully review it so that a stage may not come when the total installed capacity may be so excessive that we might be faced with serious closures.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Is it a fact that some of the States have not lifted their cement quota? Which are those States?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have not got the individual figuers, but it is true that the off-take of cement has not caught up with the anticipated increase in production that has taken place throughout the country. There has also been a very great loss in the off-take of the Central Government requirements.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब सीमेंट का प्राडक्शन बढ़ रहा है, तो क्या उस की कीमत घटने की सम्भावना है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सीमेंट की कैपेसिटी जिस तरह बढ़ रही है, उस को ध्यान में रख कर टैरिफ कमीशन ने उस की कीमत फिक्स की थी । इस लिये उस की घटाने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है ।

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether any factory will be set up in the public sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the present, this does not arise because the installed capacity is already sufficient and we generally expand our resources, which are already very scarce, for such projects which are high priority projects.

Shri Hem Barua: The Statement says that it was affected by the shortage of workable orders. May I know to what extent the shortage of workable orders was felt?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no percentage worked out as such. The overall availability is larger than the overall off-take.

Shri Narasimhan: May I know....

Mr. Speaker: Am I to allow a discussion on this matter? I have already allowed over five minutes.

Shri Narasimhan: Is it not a fact that the Tariff Commission has suggested that price reduction would mean more off-take of cement? If so, when the review takes place, will this suggestion also be examined?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the proposition of the hon. Member hardly any advice from the Tariff Commission is needed. If the price is reduced naturally to some extent the off-take will go up. But we cannot reduce the price beyond an economic level.

Marine Diesel Engines

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*965. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:** / **Shri Subodh Hansda:** }

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 144 on the 14th February, 1958 and state the progress made so far in setting up the factory for the manufacture of marine diesel engines?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Preliminary details regarding collaboration in the manufacture of Marine Diesel Engines from three foreign concerns have been received and are under consideration. The project not being a core-project has not been placed by the Planning Commission among those for which necessary resources would be allocated in the 2nd Five Year Plan. However, Government are examining the possibility of starting detailed investigations with a view to implementing the project in the beginning of the 3rd Five Year Plan.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the names of the three foreign concerns that have come forward for collaboration? What is the sort of collaboration?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I hope the hon. Member does not need to have the names. One firm is from Germany, another is from Denmark and the third is from Italy. The collaboration will arise only after the tenders are properly scrutinised and what ultimately is going to be selected.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether with their help it can be taken up in the private sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The idea is to have it in the public sector.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any preliminary investigation has been carried out with a view to implement it in the Third Five Year Plan?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is only after the preliminary investigation that we go forward for calling tenders etc. Every preliminary data is worked out.

Shri Warior: May I know whether the requirements of the small fishing vessels will also be taken into consideration before the projects are finalised?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is for large-sized marine diesel engines required for ships and other things.

Panel of Experts for Leather Industry

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*966. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:** / **Shri S. C. Samanta:** / **Shri R. C. Majhi:** / **Shri Sonavane:** }

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Panel of

Experts for Leather and Leather goods Industries;

(b) if so, the purpose of setting up this panel; and

(c) whether they have submitted any report to Government?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Panel, like a Development Council, is intended to keep in touch with the requirements of the industry, to inform the Government in regard to its present position, make recommendations for solving its problems and suggest what steps should be taken to ensure the continued growth and development of the industry. The Panel is expected to meet from time to time to consider these aspects and make recommendations.

The Panel also appointed the following Sub-Committees to study the various aspects of the Industry and report back to the Panel for making suitable recommendations to the Government:—

(1) Hides & Skins Sub-Committee.

(2) Footwear & Leather-goods Sub-Committee.

(3) Export Sub-Committee.

(4) Vegetable Tanning Materials Sub-Committee.

(5) Tanning & Footwear Machinery Sub-Committee.

(6) Chemicals Sub-Committee.

The Panel also appointed an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to arrive at a quick assessment of the position of hides, skins and leather. This Sub-Committee has met and has practically completed its work.

Shri Subodh Hansda: From the statement I find that the panel has appointed various sub-committees to study the various aspects of the industry. May I know whether these sub-committees have studied the various aspects of this industry and whether they have made any recommendation to the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That I have already mentioned. They are still continuing to deliverate because they have all been appointed very recently including the panel itself As soon as the reports are received the main panel will review the matter and make recommendations to the Government

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the statement it is mentioned that the Panel also appointed an *ad hoc* sub-committee to arrive at a quick assessment of the position of hors, skins and leather. May I know whether the leather industry is facing a crisis because of shortage of raw hides and also because of the rapid growth of plastic goods? If so what steps are being taken for protecting the industry?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is not so much of a crisis. There is some difficulty because recently there were many changes. One is, if I may say so, the Anti Slaughter Act protecting certain animals from slaughter which has reduced the availability of indigenous hides and skins considerably. Secondly, the import which was taking place on OGL basis of certain hides and skins has now been severely restricted due to the difficulties of foreign exchange. This has also caused a certain amount of setback. But plastic goods and other things have hardly anything materially to affect the availiability or the utilisation of hides and skins.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जहां तक इन विशेषज्ञों का सवाल है, क्या ये लोग इस बात पर भी विचार करेंगे कि मरे हुए जानवरों के चमड़े की वस्तुयें किस प्रकार ठीक तरह से बनाई जा सकती हैं, क्योंकि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि गोवध बन्द होने के कारण चमड़ा मिलना कठिन हो गया है ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : उस पर तो खास विचार किया जायेगा कि फ्लेइंग सैन्ट्रज में नये तरीके से काम किया जाये जिस से चमड़े के खराब होने से पहले उस का अच्छी तरह से इस्तेमाल हो ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: In agreement with Netherlands, a training-*cum*-production centre was set up at Bakshi-ka-talab. The Netherlands experts through the W.H.O. came there. May I know whether this body is consulting them or not?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This question hardly arises out of the question. If the hon. Member is interested in any particular centre, I will certainly provide him the information.

Contract Labour in Railways

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*967. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:** / **Shri R. C. Majhi:** }

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey about the present working conditions of contract labour employed in Railways has been made; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings of the survey?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Prepliminary data for conducting such survey is being collected.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether the survey was carried out in all the Railways?

Shri Abid Ali: For the present we will be having the survey in 12 places.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What are the present conditions that are taken into consideration while surveying the conditions of these contract workers?

Shri Abid Ali: Purpose?

Mr. Speaker: The detailed manner in which the survey is being conducted.

Shri Abid Ali: Mainly the purpose is regulation of their working conditions and ensuring conditions of employment. That would be the main purpose of the survey.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total number of contract labour working under the Railways and whether they are being paid according to the Minimum Wages Act?

Shri Abid Ali: For this, notice will be necessary.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह सही है कि अभी भी मध्य प्रदेश और कुछ दूसरे प्रदेशों के स्टेशनों पर जो सामान उठाने वाले कुली हैं वे ठेके पर रहते हैं और उनकी कोई नीचे की मजदूरी की दर मुकर्रर नहीं है, उनको बहुत कम पैसा मिलता है और ज्यादातर पैसा जो ठेकेदार होते हैं वे ले जाते हैं ? यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है ?

श्री आबिद अली : यह सवाल तो रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री से किया जाना चाहिये ।

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether trade union rights are made available to the contract workers and if not whether the Government propose to make these rights available to these people?

Shri Abid Ali: Certainly; every one is entitled to have trade union.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The other day, the Railway Minister said that the Minimum Wages Act is applied to this contract labour. What is the machinery of the Labour Ministry which checks up whether that is implemented properly?

Shri Abid Ali: This question pertains to the survey which is to be undertaken. Certainly these supplementaries will be kept in view while having the survey.

National Coal Development Corporation

*968. **Shri Keshava:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts, if any, made in the Sounda Colliery of the National Coal Development Corporation to introduce labour participation in management;

(b) whether it has been successful; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). Sounda is a new Colliery opened in March, 1958 and it is too early to consider the question of introducing the scheme of labour participation in management there.

Shri Kashava: Has this effort been made in any other unit under the Corporation in the private sector?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We have introduced this system so far as mines are concerned, only in one place Argada. So far as the other units are concerned, we have introduced in 18 units and we propose to introduce in 19 units more shortly.

Shri Keshava: May I know if this has resulted in increase of production?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is too early to assess. Apart from material gains, we expect better results, that is, the human aspect of the problem: making labour equal partners with capital. That is a greater gain.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: What is the main function of this Council. May I know whether they can discuss bonus and wages?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The functions of these joint councils are divided into three: (i) seeking information as regards balance sheets and planning etc., (ii) items dealing with rationalisation and production programmes, (iii) welfare measures like safety and transport. They can directly administer these functions. So far as financial question is concerned, it does not come under the purview of this council.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, in the joint council, whether they are nominees of recognised unions or whether they are elected from workers?

Shri L. N. Mishra: They are mainly elected. In Kerala, some trade unions have put their own nominees.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the grounds for not introducing this in the remaining 19 units of the National Coal Development Corporation?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Efforts are being made for introduction. We hope 19 units will be covered very soon but not under the N.C.D.C.

Indians in South Africa

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*969. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South African Government has made any approach to open negotiations with India and Pakistan on the treatment of people of Indian and Pakistani origin in South Africa as recommended by U.N. General Assembly recently; and

(b) whether the negotiations have been started?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In view of this fact may I know whether the Government has made any complaint to the U.N.O. in this regard?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have made many complaints and it has been brought to the notice of the U.N.O. in 12 of its annual sessions so far.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the nature of the hardships and grievances of Indian people in South Africa?

Mr. Speaker: In one word it can be said.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Racial discrimination.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार ने हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार को कोई प्रार्थना की है कि अफ्रीका की सरकार के साथ इस सम्बन्ध में बातचीत की जाये ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : इस बारे में आम तौर से पाकिस्तान की हकूमत और हिन्दुस्तान का शासन एक साथ काम करते हैं, मश्विरे से काम करते हैं, यानी इस बारे में कोई मुखालिफत नहीं है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the good offices of any Commonwealth country have been sought in this matter to resolve this deadlock?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of seeking their offices. The matter comes up. Annually it has come up for the last 12 years in the United Nations and progressively there has been a condemnation of the attitude of the South African Government. Some of the Commonwealth countries which have been put in an embarrassing position, have abstained. I am not clear, I do not remember which one voted which way. One or two have voted in favour of South Africa, that is to say, in favour of the position that the matter should not be considered in the United Nations, not in favour of apartheid, I mean. Others have voted against it.

Shri Joachim Alva: A few of the African States have become independent recently. Some more are on the way of becoming self-governing by 1960 or 1961. May I know whether we are carrying on active negotiations with those States as their nationals are also affected?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of carrying on negotiations because we are all of one opinion about it.

Shri Achar: May I know, in this matter, whether India and Pakistan jointly act or independently?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The only action that takes place is either at the United Nations or in addressing communications to the South African Government. We have addressed communications independently, but on the same lines. That is, we have consulted each other, Pakistan and India, and more or less the same form of communication has been addressed to the South African Government asking for a conference on the lines suggested by the United Nations.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if the Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by Dr. Banda who is one of the leading leaders of Africa that Indians should also leave that country because they consider themselves superior to Africans?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. My attention has not been drawn to that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there is any provision in the United Nations Charter which can be invoked to enable Indians and Pakistanis to have a conference with the South African Government to solve this problem?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Is the hon. Member referring to any kind of action to be taken or resolution to be passed?

Shri D. C. Sharma: Action.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are articles in the United Nations Charter and when a breach of the international peace comes into the picture, action can be taken. Otherwise it is by resolutions that the United Nations functions. They have passed resolutions repeatedly regretting the attitude of the Union Government of South Africa. As for any action to be taken against it, no such move has

been made and as the U.N. is constituted, there is no chance of any such move succeeding.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that Indian capital independently estimated is £10 million in Pretoria and £30 million in Durban, may I know what steps Government have taken to see that these uprooted Indians get adequate compensation for their fixed assets, let alone the goodwill?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Member will remember he uses the word "Indian" repeatedly. There are no Indian nationals in South Africa.

Shri Hem Barua: They are citizens of South Africa.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They are South African nationals, South African citizens of Indian descent.

Shri Hem Barua: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Therefore, legally and constitutionally we cannot deal with them about South African citizens, what they do about them. It is true that on other grounds, historical as well as humanitarian, we do deal with this question in the United Nations, but we cannot take up the question of compensation etc.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Is there any truth in the statement recently made that there is a change of heart so far as the Government in South Africa now is concerned in regard to the treatment of Indians?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I have not been able to look into their hearts.

Textile Mills

*970. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any working result has been published in respect of some of the Textile Mills which have been taken over by the Central Government or the State Governments; and

(b) whether Government intend to take over other closed Textile Mills?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Information is being collected from the State Governments. No mill has been taken over so far by the Central Government. Four mills are so far run by State Governments, two in Bombay and two in Kerala.

(b) No, Sir. Every case is considered on merits and suitable action is taken.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some of the State-run mills as well as private mills sell their sized beams to unlicensed power looms, and if not, whether Government will have a check on that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That hardly arises out of this question, because this is in regard to what happened to the closed mills, but as far as sale of beams is concerned from the organised sector, without the Textile Commissioner's permission I do not think any mill can give it to an unlicensed power loom.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether amenities to labour as provident fund, holidays and other amenities are given to these State-run mills as in the private mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There has been no relaxation in the statutory obligation, but there may have been, at the start of a particular mill, certain amount of compromise between labour and the Government-run mill in order to enable them to make a start.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In reply to the previous question the hon. Minister stated that the U.P. Government was likely to take over the Atherton West Mills at Kanpur. May I know whether a final decision has since been taken in this connection?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. We have recommended and the U.P. Government is keen. The survey party has completed its report, and the matter is under consideration of both the Governments.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras has stated that they do not intend at any time to take over any mills that might be closed for any reason whatsoever, and it is part of Government policy that they will not enter into this?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as we are aware, the Madras Government have not stated anything like that. As a matter of fact, at one stage they indicated their readiness to intervene in the Kaleeswarar Mills, and as far as we are concerned, both the State Government and the Central Government, we consider ourselves quite competent to run any mill, if we find it economical.

Shri P. C. Bose: When a closed mill is taken over by the Government, who becomes responsible for payment of arrears of wages?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About the arrears generally, they are, under the Payment of Wages Act, a first charge on the new lessee, whether it is the Government or any private firm, and therefore, there is no question of arrears or wages, or payments due to labour, suffering on account of the intervention of the Government.

Shri Sonavane: Is it not a fact that the mills taken over by the Bombay Government are running efficiently, and are even making profits?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have said in the answer, so far we have not got the statistical evaluation, but we have no doubt in our mind that when we make a decision after proper deliberation, we will try to run it as far as it lies within our power in the most economic and profitable manner..

Shri Dasappa: Does the interest of the Centre lie in only suggesting to the State Governments that they might take over, or does it also mean that they are prepared to aid them and assist them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: To assist them in every way.

Shri Dasappa: In what way?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We give loans from the NIDC sometimes, we can recommend to the IFC, and the manner in which financial and technical aid could be given according to the individual case. For instance, in the case of Atherton West Mills, we did suggest to them certain technical people also who might be able to help the U.P. Government. So, every aspect of the case is considered, and the maximum possible assistance is rendered.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The hon. Minister referred to the case of Kaleeswarar Mills when he answered my previous question and said that the Madras Government had indicated that they might take it over. Is it not a fact that finally they did not take it over, and said that one of the reasons was that they had not got the personnel to run it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It was not for that reason, but they did not consider that the unit was economic enough to justify their intervention and to work it successfully, because, after all, the Governments are answerable to the public, and unless they can run it in an economical manner, it will not pay either labour or industry to seek the intervention of the State or the Central Government.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if it is a fact that several mills in Gujarat are facing a new crisis, and if so, whether Government have any proposals to help those mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as Bombay State is concerned, it is true that it has the largest number of closures, about 11 mills out of 35 closures at present throughout the country. That is also because it has got the largest number of mills which are functioning, and it would not be correct to suggest as the hon. Member has done, that any new crisis is being faced. On the contrary, in the last one year the matter has been continuously improving and the House will be glad to know that as a result of the intervention of the Government

of India and because of our active work in that direction, 17 closed mills have reopened.

Shri K. N. Pandey: Is it a fact that some of the mills in Kanpur are going to be taken over by the U.P. Government? Will Government see that all the old employees are taken back?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That would be the natural way of doing things, because those who were already working and have been rendered unemployed for a temporary period should get preference for employment in a re-started mill.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total amount of loan or aid paid to the textile mills which were closed for modernisation and rehabilitation and the number in 1958-59, and the number of those mills which had actually received such aid?

Mr. Speaker: Why should he not put a separate question? How can he carry on like this?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is actually about loan or aid. He has already mentioned it. I have not invented this question. It arises out of the supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. Shri Sonavane.

Shri Sonavane: May I know what steps are being taken by the Government to train chief executives to run the Government mills because the present mills are run on the advice of private industrialists?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have 482 mills in this country, the highest number of cotton spindles and looms perhaps in any country in the world, and we have enough executive people trained already there. If we want to mobilise or draft any executives from the private industry, there will be no difficulty at all.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: With regard to the taking over of the mills that are closed, there are a number of mills that are being closed because of the inner management quarrels, and the taking over by Government becomes rather a difficult and cumbrous process as the regulations exist today. Are Government considering bringing in any legislation which will enable them to intervene in a timely manner in such cases?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as sections 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act are concerned, as the House is aware, the powers of Government are as wide as possible. But it is true, as the hon. lady Member has pointed out, that when the liquidation proceedings are entered into because of the quarrel among the management, it does take an unconscionably long time before things are settled. So, the present policy of Government is to have a receiver appointed through a court, who would be applied to, to take over the mill provided it is found economic in working; but we also feel that some more steps are required to see that in the course of such liquidation proceedings, some powers are taken by Government to enable such good mills to be run, which only because of the liquidation proceedings are not being re-run. That is under examination.

Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles

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*973. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles is likely to meet in 1959 to discuss the problems confronting the Cotton Textile Industry; and

(b) if so, when and where?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In reply to part (a) of the question, the hon. Minister has said 'No'. May I know whether this meeting is not going to be held at all in 1959?

Shri Abid Ali: It met once.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The textile industry is facing a crisis. That is why this meeting was essential. That was the purpose of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a proposal to have a second meeting?

Shri Abid Ali: There is no proposal at present. The first meeting of the committee was held in 1948. Since then there has been no occasion to convene a meeting. We had no agenda to place before it, and no party asked for it either.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am surprised that the hon. Minister says that there is no agenda. The textile industry is facing a crisis.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister said that there was a meeting this year?

Shri Abid Ali: No. I heard the question as to whether this committee ever met, and I said, only once it met.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In 1948.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You can imagine what is happening in the Labour Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether it is likely to meet in 1959. The hon. Minister has said, no. As to why it is not meeting and so on, the hon. Member will reserve it for the general discussion of the Budget.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Can we not ask why the meeting is not being convened? According to the I.L.O. convention, all these industrial committees should meet periodically, and the proceedings of these could be sent also to the I.L.O. Therefore, we asked why in view of the serious situation it is not meeting.

Shri Abid Ali: Formerly, we were taking up questions concerning each industry in this committee. But since the scope of the Indian Labour conference has been widened, most of the items concerning industries are taken up there. As I have said earlier, when we had no item to place before the committee, and no party asked for a meeting either, there was no purpose in holding a meeting without any agenda.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what the problem is? It is peculiar.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether all the problems of the textile industry will be discussed only in the Indian Labour Conference or the Standing Labour Committee and not in the Industrial Committee on Cotton textiles?

Shri Abid Ali: If any item worth being considered by this committee is suggested by the trade union organisation or the management, certainly the meeting will be convened.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: At the sixteenth Indian Labour Conference, the question of the closure of textile mills and the textile crisis was discussed.....

Mr. Speaker: Nobody has taken it up.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the all-India organisation or the central trade union organisation has not written to him at all, whether they have been approached to send any agenda for this, and if not, the reasons therefor.

Shri Abid Ali: I have not come across any such agenda.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Has the hon. Minister written to them?

Mr. Speaker: Why should he write inviting complaints? Do hon. Members want that Government also should ask people to complain against themselves?

Next question.

Spindles and Looms in Punjab

***974. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spindles and looms to be established in the Second Five Year Plan period in the State of Punjab;

(b) the number of such spindles and looms already installed there; and

(c) whether the target would be reached during the rest of the Plan period?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). There are no fixed targets for the installation of spindles and looms in any State during the Second Five Year Plan period. Licences have, however, been granted for the installation of 1·11 lakhs spindles and 474 looms of which 59,000 spindles and 12 looms have been installed in the Punjab. There is likelihood that the balance of spindles and looms licensed as above will be installed in the Punjab by the end of the Second Plan period.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether any efforts are made to encourage the co-operatives by giving them Licences preferentially?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, when the entire textile policy was framed before four years, preference was given to three categories only; the first was for co-operatives; the second was for refugee rehabilitation, and the third was to bring up the level of the uneconomic units to that of an economic one.

Ambulance Vans

*975 **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any rules regarding the provision of ambulance vans in proportion to the number of workers employed in the coal mines;

(b) if so, whether they have been finalised;

(c) when the same will be enforced; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) It is proposed to amend the relevant Section of the Mines Act to provide that in every mine there shall readily be made available such arrangements as may be prescribed for conveyance to hospitals of persons who while employed thereat suffer bodily injury or become ill. Suitable modification in the Mines Rules, 1955 will be made after the Act is amended.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The question of amending the Mines Act has been there for well over two and a half years. May I know when the Bill will be introduced in this House?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We hope to introduce it soon.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the reasons for the delay in introducing this Bill?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I require notice.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have Government made any survey of the collieries where there are vans kept for the use of workers especially by the European owners in the private sector?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Yes, there are vans in a number of collieries. The number goes to about four hundred.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether the hospitals have got adequate number of ambulance vans to carry the injured persons from the collieries to the hospitals?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Many of the hospitals do have vans, especially hospitals run by the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioners and also the big colliery owners who employ more than five hundred labourers.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether any assessment has been made by Government of the ambulance facilities which are available to the various mines, right throughout India, and especially in the iron ore and coal belt?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We have got some figures, and we feel that there is need to improve the situation, and we expect that very shortly some more mines will have vans.

Persons of Indian Origin in Ceylon

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*977. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shri Mahanty:
Shri Sampath:
Shri Siddananjappa:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Ceylon Government have abolished special electorates reserved for persons of Indian origin registered as citizens of Ceylon; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government of India thereto?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manner in which a particular class of Ceylon citizens should be represented in their legislature is of domestic concern to the people and Government of Ceylon.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether all such special electorates have been abolished or only those special electorates for persons of Indian origin in Ceylon have been abolished?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I could not catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether all electorates have been abolished. How can all electorates be abolished?

Shri D. C. Sharma: I wanted to know whether all such special electorates reserved for certain persons have been abolished or only those special electorates reserved for persons of Indian origin have been abolished.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I cannot with any certainty say, but my own impression is, that there are no separate electorates there. In fact, what happened was that, some five years ago, when the then Prime Minister of Ceylon came here, there were some talks on this question, and it was a suggestion by him, on behalf of the Government of Ceylon, that for certain people of Indian origin, who were registered as citizens, they should have a special electorate for ten years to give them a chance; it was not our proposal. Since they proposed it, we said, certainly if you so wish it, we shall agree. And later, a provision to this effect was introduced in that Act, but in effect, it was never given effect to. And recently, they have removed that provision.

Apart from the reason given by my colleague that it is a domestic matter, we can hardly stand for separate electorate; we have not normally done so anywhere. So, when the Prime Minister of Ceylon informed me that they were going to do it, I merely noted that fact; I did not object to it nor did I commend it.

Shri Sampath: In view of the fact that the conditions of life of the people of Indian origin are already becoming very much worse, may I know whether this step taken by the Ceylon Government will not deteriorate their condition still further, and if so, what steps Government contemplate to tackle this situation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This particular step by the Ceylon Government has no effect at all on the deterioration or amelioration of the life of persons of Indian origin there. They have never had that facility given to them; if it had been given, it meant very little, because, as far as I remember, about 12,000 to 13,000 persons got the vote. That is, about 1,00,000 people have been registered under the new Act. Of those, 13,000, who were adults and who would have got the vote under this, were spread all over Ceylon in little groups. It has really no effect—no electoral effect, I mean, —they never had it, and now they have removed it from the Statute-book. So it has really no direct result now.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: This is not a suggestion. But I just want to explain that Ceylon in my plan is within 'Aryan'. Culturally Ceylon is a Buddhist country. Therefore, I ask whether the Prime Minister has approached the Ceylonese Government from this viewpoint, because when we ask them as foreigners 'we, Indians, and you, Ceylonese', they do not listen to us, but if we approach them as Buddhists having common culture and as Aryans within 'Aryan', I think that will settle this question.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : पांच बरस पहले सीलोन के प्रधान मंत्री ने हमारे प्रधान मंत्री को कहा था कि हम इस इलेक्टोरेट के सिस्टम को दस साल तक रखेंगे लेकिन वह अब उसको इतनी जल्दी बदलना चाहते हैं । क्या इस बारे में उनसे कोई लिखापढ़ी नहीं की गयी ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मैं ने अभी आपसे अर्ज किया कि उन्होंने एक तजवीज की थी जिसको हमने न मंजूर किया था और न नामंजूर किया था । वह एक चीज करना चाहते थे, तो करें । अब वह उसको हटा रहे हैं । हमारी राय में उससे किसी को बहुत फायदा या नुकसान नहीं होता है ।

Shri Thanu Pillai: The terms of the agreement contain many clauses, of which one relates to this electorate. In view of the fact that the Government of Ceylon is changing it, will our Government consider abrogating other clauses wherein we are obliged to register citizens who continue to be residents of Ceylon to become Indian citizens?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member suggests.....

Mr. Speaker: Retaliation.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Was he suggesting retaliation?

Shri Thanu Pillai: Not retaliation. We are obliged to do certain things as per the agreement. They are now giving the go-bye to that agreement. Why should we alone carry the baby and continue to fulfil the obligations?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can appreciate the hon. Member's feeling about it. But this supplementary has got no relation to this question. There are problems between India and Ceylon about the people of Indian descent. According to an agreement arrived at, they were to register them, those who fulfil their qualifications as their citizens, and we were to register those who fulfil our qualifications as Indian citizens. There is no question of our saying—and it would be improper for us to say—that we will not register a person whom we think is an Indian citizen. That is not retaliation. We cannot say that at any time. What we have laid stress is that we will only register such persons as qualify and as decide to do so without compulsion, that is, compulsion in Ceylon. That is our position and we hold by that, regardless of what the other party may do. Anyhow, that has no relation to this particular question.

Fertilizer Factory in Andhra Pradesh

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*978. { **Shri Rami Reddy:** / **Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have made repeated representations for the establishment of a Fertilizer Factory in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have come to a decision in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The proposal for the establishment of a fertilizer factory in Andhra Pradesh will be considered alongwith other suitable sites when additional fertilizer factories are planned.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know when a decision is likely to be arrived at in this matter?

Shri Satish Chandra: It will take some time. The new fertilizer factories will be included in the next Plan. A technical committee has been set up to study suitable sites where fertiliser factories could be located. It will also depend upon the resources position.

Shri Rami Reddy: Has any time-limit been fixed for submission of its report by the committee?

Shri Satish Chandra: Obviously the technical committee will submit its report before the draft of the Third Plan is finalised.

Shri Rami Reddy: The Minister has said that it will take some time. Meanwhile, if the Andhra Pradesh Government approaches the Central Government for setting up a fertiliser factory in the private sector, will they consider giving them assistance?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Andhra Government has been writing repeatedly to the Central Government. Many other State Governments have also been writing similarly. The entire matter will have to be considered in the light of transport problem, availability of raw materials and other facilities, consumption areas etc.

Shri Rami Reddy: My question was whether the Central Government would give assistance to the Andhra Pradesh Government in setting up a factory in the private sector.

Shri Satish Chandra: No such requst seems to have been received. If and when it is received, it will be considered.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the information given by the hon. Deputy Minister that the matter will be considered in the public sector in the Third Five Year Plan and whereas Andhra Desa is one of the largest consuming centres of fertilisers and also producers of foodgrains in a large measure, have Government got any proposal to help the private sector, if it comes with capital and other equipment, to start a factory?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): As we had the privilege of assuring the hon. House, Andhra Pradesh will be given the highest priority in the allocation of the next fertiliser factory. There have been some not very concrete proposals from the Andhra Pradesh Government from time to time. Whether it is a private sector proposal or public sector proposal, we shall give our utmost help to the Andhra State for the establishment of a fertiliser factory.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact published in the Press widely that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh made an announcement on the floor of the Andhra Legislative Assembly that that Government is going to encourage a private party, and it is proceeding with the plan of setting up a factory in the near future?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is true. They have been assisting one or two parties which had also consultation with us at the Centre here, and we hope that at an early stage something concrete will materialise out of that.

श्री इ० मधुसूदन राव : सन् १९५४ में एक टैक्निकल कमेटी बनायी गयी थी । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उसने आन्ध्र प्रदेश में किन किन स्थानों में फरटिलाइजर फैक्टरी रखने की सिफारिश की थी ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : जो कमेटी १९५४ में बैठी थी उसने सोचा था कि विजयवाडा में फरटिलाइजर फैक्टरी हो सकती है । इसके अलावा रामगुडम व कोठागुडियम के लिये हैदराबाद स्टेट और आन्ध्र गवर्नमेंट ने सिफारिश की थी । लेकिन अब नये सिरे से गौर हो रहा है और एक नई टैकनिकल कमेटी बिठायी गयी है जो आयन्दा की जरूरियात को देखते हुए सिफारिश करेगी कि कहां कहां फरटिलाइजर फैक्टरियां लगायी जायें ।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What necessitated the appointment of the second technical committee, and who are the members of this committee?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Chairman of the second technical committee is the Senior Industrial Adviser (Chemicals), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The reason why this committee has been appointed is that recently as a result of new developments all over the world, the Government are now convinced that not only very large projects should be encouraged but medium and small scale projects for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilisers should also be encouraged. All these aspects will be considered and as many factories as could be provided for will be considered by the technical committee.

Shri Rami Reddy: Now Government propose to set up three factories in the public sector. If for any reason the setting up of any of these factories is likely to be delayed, will Government divert the foreign exchange and machinery to Andhra Pradesh?

Shri Manubhai Shah: None of the public sector projects in our hands is going to be delayed. We have laid on the floor of the House the actual dates of completion and we hope that by the end of 1961 we will have reached our annual capacity target of 4 lakh tons in terms of nitrogen of nitrogenous fertilisers as included in the Second Five Year Plan.

Trade Agreement between India and Indonesia

***979. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the duration of trade agreement between India and Indonesia has been extended by one more year; and

(b) if so, whether any new clause or suggestion has been added to the agreement for developing more trade between the two countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The Trade Agreement has been extended till the 30th June, 1959.

(b) No, Sir.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो ट्रेड ऐग्रिमेंट हुआ है, इसमें मोड आफ पेमेंट क्या होगा, रुपये में पेमेंट होगा या स्टर्लिंग में ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : कोई नया ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट नहीं हुआ है । सन् १९५३ से एक ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट चला आता है जिसकी अवधि ३१ दिसम्बर, १९५८ को खत्म हो गयी । उसको ६ महीने के और लिये बढ़ा दिया गया है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : आपने जो इसको ६ महीने के लिये बढ़ाया है, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आपने इसमें रुपी पेमेंट का सवाल रखा है य नहीं ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : उसमें कोई तबदीली नहीं हुई है और न रुपी पेमेंट का सवाल है ।

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: In view of the fact that we have to have market research have we had any market research in Indonesia so that the effective items can be pushed to that country from India

Shri Satish Chandra: The various Export Promotion Councils undertake, from time to time, market surveys in different countries. The main difficulty in Indonesia is that our exports have not been able to find a favourable market there due to increasing competition from China and Japan. Our Commerce Minister who has now gone to Australia to attend the ECAFE Conference proposes to visit Jakarta on his return journey to carry on further talks and to explore the possibilities of increasing our trade.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the working of the present agreement has been reviewed; and if so, may I also know whether there is any proposal to make some revision of the trade agreement?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, Sir. The agreement is due for revision. But, as I said, on account of the increasing competition and our declining trade with Indonesia, the matter has not been taken up as yet. We are exploring the possibilities of expanding our exports. As and when the ideas crystallise, the question of reviewing the agreement will be progressed.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What is the present position of the trade between the two countries?

Shri Satish Chandra: The trade with Indonesia has sharply declined during the last one year. Our major exports were cotton textiles in which we have been replaced by China and Japan. Between January and November, we exported goods worth about Rs. 2 crores and imported goods from Indonesia worth about Rs. 2½ crores.

Shri Warior: May I know whether any discussion took place to reduce competition in the world market of the same commodities which Indonesia and we are exporting into the world market?

Shri Satish Chandra: Indonesia has got some freight advantages for its imports from China and Japan. Secondly, it has received large credits from China. All these factors have contributed to the decline in our trade with Indonesia.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: In view of the fact that in Western Europe they are demolishing economic barriers, are we prepared to do the same in Asia, especially with Indonesia?

Shri Satish Chandra: No such proposal is under consideration.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that India produces some manufactured engineering goods which can well be utilised in Indonesia, have we tried in our trade agreement to insert, besides textiles, any clauses so that this offtake is increased?

Shri Satish Chandra: These things are included in the agreement and we have been exporting in small quantities our engineering goods. But, obviously, the preference there in the matter of engineering goods is for Japanese goods, and also goods from Germany. All these things are being reviewed now and we are trying to expand our trade with Indonesia.

Shri Warior: I wanted to elicit information as to whether about similar commodities like pepper which are being exported to world markets by ourselves and Indonesia, we had any discussion when this agreement was revised.

Shri Satish Chandra: There is no appreciable competition with Indonesia in matter of our exports. As far as we are concerned, we are mainly importing mineral oils from Indonesia. As regards other things, except, perhaps, some spices, there is no competition between us and Indonesia.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What steps are being taken to regain our trade with Indonesia?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): As the Deputy Minister has said, our Commerce Minister is going there in about a few days' time—about a fortnight—and we have to review this agreement before June, because the agreement comes to an end in the month of June. So, we will have the opportunity then to review the whole position. We will certainly come to a new agreement keeping in view the fact that we are able to improve our trade substantially with Indonesia.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that the goods coming from China and Japan get a freight preference than which

we give. In fact, the line to Indonesia is open for the public sector, that is the Eastern Shipping Corporation. Could I know whether our exports could be done on a c.i.f. basis with our own ships and the freight rates so adjusted that we can be competitive?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is not freight rate only. Apart from freight rate, there are other things also. Indonesia has been given large credit facilities by China. Indonesia has got credit facilities from U.S.S.R. which it is utilising in its own way. All these things come in and it is a complicated matter. We are trying to come to some sort of arrangement with the Indonesian Government.

Trade in Raw Cotton

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*980. { **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:**
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased state:

(a) whether Government have studied the effect on trade in raw cotton arising out of the crisis in the textile industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the upward trend in the consumption of cotton has been reversed as a result thereof;

(c) whether this has reflected on the prices of Indian cotton; and

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take to help the producer?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Actually, the indications for 1958-59 are for a higher consumption than in 1957-58.

(c) Over all, the prices during the current season have in fact shown an upward trend particularly so in the medium and long staple varieties of cotton grown in the country.

(d) The cotton producer is getting adequate return for his crop and hence no special measures are considered necessary.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the prices for raw cotton are showing a downward trend?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. On the contrary, as I indicated, with the improvements that are taking place in the staple varieties, the prices are much higher than the international prices of similar staples.

Shri Achar: Is it not a fact that after import licence was allowed to higher staple cotton, the prices of cotton went down?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is some misunderstanding. What is allowed is what is not grown in this country. The two things have, obviously, no relation.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: Has it not gone down?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: The hon. Minister is saying that there is no downward trend. At present the cotton price in Punjab is Rs. 35 per md. for raw cotton whereas in December and November it was Rs. 40 and Rs. 41.

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the comparable months are taken, it may be that a particular variety might have sagged. But, from the statistics we have before us, it is clear that all the varieties have shown a slightly upward trend excepting, perhaps slightly, inferior cotton.

Production of Tyres

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*981. { **Shri Kodiyan:**
Shri Punnoose:
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have arrived at any rough estimates of

production of cycle and automobile tyres at the end of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that new units of production are situated with the best locational advantages?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. Decisions for industrial targets for the Third Five Year Plan are yet to be taken.

(b) The existing policy and procedure in regard to licensing of new units takes into consideration locational advantages along with other relevant factors as also the question of according preference in licensing new units in regions and areas deficient in such industries.

Shri Kodiyan: May I know whether Government is aiming at self-sufficiency in the matter of production of cycle and automobile tyres during the Third Plan period?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Naturally, Sir, when the country is expanding at such a good and fast rate, we will have to expand the industrial targets of all products including tyres.

Shri Kodiyan: May I know whether in locating new units of production, sufficient consideration will be given to the State where rubber is grown in plenty?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We always take all factors into consideration and particularly the hon. Member refers largely to Kerala. We have licensed a giant tyre factory in Kerala as well as expansion of the cycle factory that is already existing there.

Shri Punnoose: In view of the considerations that had been enunciated just now, may I know why the Government were not able to persuade a big manufacturing company to start a factory in Kerala?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In all these industrial developments, all the parties have to play their part. If the industrialists, the State Governments and the Central Government do so, I have no doubt that more and more industries will come in every area.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The Minister has not answered the earlier supplementary. We would like to know whether the Government aims to be self-sufficient in the matter of bicycle and automobile tyres?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have already established production capacity for a million tyres for automobiles and we have licensed a further capacity of 1.1 million. It will make the country more than self-sufficient and enable us to export. It is our hope and firm estimation that very shortly we shall not only be self-sufficient but also surplus in automobile and cycle tyres.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import and Distribution of Copper

*971. **Shri Shree Narayan Das**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of the control of imports and distribution of Copper has been reviewed;

(b) if so, with what result;

(c) whether any estimate has been made as to the requirement of this metal in India; and

(d) what portion of this demand is met by indigenous produce and what part by imports?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 37].

Handloom Industry

*972. **Shri V. P. Nayar**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Handloom Industry specially in

South India has experienced difficulty in obtaining its requirement of art silk yarn; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to help the industry?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Some representations were received that art silk yarn was not available for use by handloom industry in sufficient quantities.

(b) Arrangements have been made with four indigenous manufacturers of art silk yarn to distribute a specified percentage of their production to the handloom weavers in the country.

Delegation to East European Countries

*973. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**
Shri Kistaiya:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the precise nature of suggestions made by the delegation which made a survey of the export markets in East European countries regarding the examination of the role of the State Trading Corporation and the possibility of increasing the Corporation's usefulness to the customers; and

(b) the progress made in giving detailed consideration to these suggestions?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Attention is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 1 answered on the 17th November, 1958.

(b) The State Trading Corporation is gradually expanding its business and increasingly earning the satisfaction of its customers.

कस्टोडियन के विभाग को बन्द करना

*९८२. **श्री सरजू पांडे :** क्या पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कस्टोडियन के विभाग को बन्द करने का प्रश्न विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) इसका कितने कर्मचारियों पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा; और

(ग) क्या सरकार उन्हें और जगह काम दे देगी ?

पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : (क) जी हां । कस्टोडियन के विभाग का काम समाप्त हो रहा है । इस लिये यह विभाग धीरे धीरे बन्द किया जा रहा है ।

(ख) १०२२ ।

(ग) उन लोगों को जिन की नौकरी छट जाती है, अपने नाम स्थानीय एमप्लायमेंट एक्सचेंज में दोबारा नौकरी पाने के लिये दर्ज कराने पड़ते हैं । एमप्लायमेंट एक्सचेंजों को हिदायतें दी जा चुकी हैं कि इन लोगों को रोजगार के मामले में ऊंची प्रायरटी दी जाये ।

Weavers Co-operative Societies in Andhra Pradesh

*983. **Shri D. V. Rao:**
Shri Nagi Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding the arrears of subsidy on handlooms products to be paid to the Weavers Co-operative Societies in Andhra Pradesh, due to the delay in the disbursement of funds from the Centre;

(b) if so, what action has been taken; and

(c) the amount of arrears to be paid by the end of 1958?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Certain representations were received about the inadequacy of funds provided by the Central Government for rebate scheme. The State Government had put in a claim for Rs. 42.42 lakhs for arrears of rebate expenditure up to the end of March, 1958. An immediate sanction for Rs. 25 lakhs was issued to them on 9th January, 1959, pending examination of the claim.

As regards expenditure on rebate during the current year a revised procedure of Central assistance to States has also been introduced, which is likely to assist the State Governments in disbursing the claims of weavers' societies as quickly as possible.

Bi-Partite Joint Consultative Machinery

*984. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bi-partite joint consultative machinery will be formed in the public sector; and

(b) if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and b). Bi-partite Joint Consultative Machinery exists in Public sector undertakings like railways, and defence installations. In the P&T department, Ports and certain other undertakings periodic meetings are held at different levels. Works Committees exist in a number of public sector undertakings.

Power Alcohol

*985. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production of power alcohol with a view to meet the requirements of the country during 1959-60?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Indigenous production is adequate to meet all requirements of power alcohol for the next few years and more capacity is being established.

Coffee Production

*986. **Qazi Matin:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year coffee production in the country is expected to reach a record figure of 60,000 tons; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to promote exports of coffee and to absorb the balance by increasing internal consumption?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a). No, Sir. The production for this year is estimated by the Coffee Board at 44,810 tons (44,104 tons). Judged by the past records, the actual production might be slightly higher than this figure. It is, however, unlikely that this crop will go up to 60,000 tons.

(b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 38].

U.N. Report on Religious Rights

*987. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report prepared by India on discrimination in religious rights was approved by the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; and

(b) if so, the main features of the report?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No report has yet been approved. A draft report was discussed by the Sub-Commission on

Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its 11th session in January this year. The Sub-Commission has requested that a final report should be presented for consideration at its next session in 1960.

पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के विस्थापित व्यक्ति

*९८८. श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विस्थापित व्यक्ति हुत बड़ी संख्या में अब भी स्यालदह स्टेशन पर पड़े हुए हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनको बसाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : (क) हाल ही में राज्य सरकार द्वारा की गयी सर्वे के मुताबिक १०२२ परिवार स्यालदह स्टेशन में रह रहे हैं। इन में से ६१२ परिवार शरणार्थी और बाकी ४१० परिवार गैर-सरणार्थी हैं।

(ख) शरणार्थी परिवारों को दूसरी जगहों पर बसाने के लिये कार्यवाही की जा रही है। पिछले ६ महीनों में लगभग २६० परिवार भेजे जा चुके हैं।

Dandakaranya Project

*989. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that machinery worth Rs. 1½ crores has been imported for the Dandakaranya Project;

(b) if so, what are the details of the machinery; and

(c) whether the machinery is imported under the Technical Cooperation Mission?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Manufacture of Cartridges

*990. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money spent yearly in importing twelve bore cartridges;

(b) the reasons for not manufacturing them in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

I would like to invite attention of the Hon'ble Member to the answer given by my colleague, the Deputy Minister of Defence on the 13th December 1958 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2088 and to say that when the production of 12 bore cartridges gets into full swing in the near future, it will be adequate to meet the country's demands. Certain arms dealers in the private sector also undertake re-filling 12 bore cartridges. Measures to step up production will be taken as and when the demand justifies.

Information regarding the actual value of import of 12 bore cartridges only (empty or loaded) is, however, not available.

Machinery for Cement Industry

*991. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial progress has been made in regard to the manufacture of cement machinery in India;

(b) if so, the extent and nature of the progress so far made; and

(c) when India is likely to become completely self-sufficient in meeting the country's requirements of cement machinery?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). There are now six firms registered or licensed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for the manufacture of cement machinery and parts thereof. Of these, two are licensed for the manufacture of complete cement plants, and one of them has started production of a few items, while the other is expected to go into production by 1961. Barring a few components which may have to be imported, the country is expected to attain self-sufficiency in respect of cement machinery requirements in the first and second years of the Third Plan.

General Cariappa's Talks with General Ayub Khan

*992 **Shri N. B. Maiti:**
Shri N. R. Munisamy:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether General K. M. Cariappa former Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army and President of the Asian-African Goodwill Society recently visited Karachi and had talks about Indo-Pakistan disputes with General Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan;

(b) whether General Cariappa reported the matter to the Government of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). Government of India have seen press reports to this effect. General Cariappa's visit was entirely a private one and Government of India had no connection whatever with it.

Government Press at Veerapandi (Madras)

*993. **Shri Nanjappa:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the progress in the construction of a Government press at Veerapandi, Coimbatore District, Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda):

Construction work has not yet been taken up.

Ban on Concessional Cinema Shows

*994. **Shri Vajpayee:**
Shri Assar:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Relations Committee of the Delhi Administration has urged imposition of a ban on Cinema shows run in the afternoon at concessional rates; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a). It is understood that the Public Relations Committee of the Delhi Administration has urged such an imposition of a ban.

(b) Regulation of cinema shows is under the authority of the local administration which in this case is the Delhi Administration. It is understood that the recommendation is being studied by the Administration of Delhi.

Cess on Salt

*995 **Shri Subbiah Ambalam:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Warior:
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri E. V. K. Sampath:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy a cess of one anna per maund on salt produced over 5,000 to 15,000 maunds and two annas per over 15,000 maunds;

(b) if so, what are reasons for such a levy on small-scale salt manufactured under 10 acres;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from small-scale salt manufacturers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Points mentioned in the representations are being given due consideration.

Zonal Cells for Industries

*998. **Shri Siddananjappa:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri M. R. Krishnan:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up 'Zonal Cells' of experts to advise industrialists on proper management; and

(b) if so, when they will be set up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The proposal was considered but it was not found very useful and so no further action is being taken.

Finance for Medium Industries

*997 **Shri Warior:**
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formation of a consortium of Banks to underwrite new capital issues and provide finance to medium industries with a capital below Rs. 50 lakhs was considered by the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). During the course of the general discussions at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Industries held on the 17th February, 1959 a refrence was made by certain members to the need for a Consortium of Banks to afford financial assistance to medium scale industries. This matter of financing medium scale industries is engaging the attention of the Government.

भारत में स्कूटरों का निर्माण

*९९८. **श्री भक्त दर्शन** : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री १८ फरवरी, १९५९ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ३८२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सारे देश की मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए भारत में दो सीटों वाले स्कूटरों का उत्पादन आरम्भ करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : दो सीटों वाले स्कूटरों का देश में पहले से ही निर्माण हो रहा है । चालू अवधि में इस उद्योग को कुछ अतिरिक्त विदेशी मुद्रा दी गयी है जिससे यह उत्पादन बढ़ा सके । हालांकि स्कूटरों की अब भी कमी है लेकिन स्थिति सुधर जायेगी ।

Plant and Machinery for Chemical Industries

*999. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation which visited Japan some time back under the sponsorship of Japan Consulting Institute in India, has submitted its report to Government on the results of its discussions with Japanese manufacturers for supply of plant and machinery for chemical industries in India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The Indian Delegation which went to Japan have in their Report indicated that suitable machinery for production of alkalis and allied products could be obtained from Japan if individual industrialists took up negotiations with the manufacturers in that country. Direct negotiations are taking place between parties concerned.

Fair Price for Indian Paper

*1000. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Kistaiya:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question **No.** 334 on the 29th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have received report from the Tariff Commission regarding the fixation of fair prices to be charged by wholesalers and retailers for paper manufactured in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Tariff Commission expect to submit their report by the middle of **May**, 1959.

Export of Raw Jute

*1001. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri Barman:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation have exported raw jute to foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what is the response from those countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a). Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

मांडले (बर्मा) में तिलक स्मारक

*१००२. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :**
श्री वी० चं० शर्मा :
सरदार इकबाल सिंह :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री ८ दिसम्बर, १९५८ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १०६६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बर्मा की मांडले जेल में लोकमान्य तिलक के स्मारक का निर्माण कार्य इस बीच पूरा हो गया है ।

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर कुल कितना धन व्यय हुआ है; और

(ग) भविष्य में उसकी देखभाल और मरम्मत आदि की क्या व्यवस्था की गयी है ?

वैदेशिक-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) जी हां, निर्माण का कार्य १० फरवरी, १९५९ को समाप्त हो गया था ।

(ख) ४७,८२७ के० के कुल ठेके में से ठेकेदारों को अब तक ३५,००० के० की रकम दी जा चुकी है ।

(ग) जब यह स्मारक भवन (मेमोरियल हाल) बर्मा सरकार को सौंप दिया जायगा, तब भविष्य में उसकी देखरेख का जिम्मा बर्मा सरकार पर होगा ।

Regional Hospital, Kurasia

*1003. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the construction of thirty-bedded regional hospital at Kurasia in the Korba Coal-field;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the hospital; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) The plans and estimates are being finalised.

(b) About Rs. 6,99,372.

(c) Does not arise.

Employees Provident Fund

*1004. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a dicision to speed up the collection of provident Fund dues from the employers;

(b) the amount of arrears due from the employers as their share of contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund at present; and

(c) whether Government is considering the question of increasing penalty against defaulting employers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) About Rupees seventy-five lakhs by the end of November 1958.

(c) It is proposed to press for more deterrent punishments than are being generally awarded and to ensure speedy recovery of arrears.

Code of Efficiency and Welfare

*1005. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to evolve a Code of Efficiency and Welfare; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter so far?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A preliminary draft of Code of Efficiency and Welfare has been circulated to Employers and Workers Organizations for comments.

Nylon

*1006. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the main raw materials required for the production of Nylon and what is the position of India in respect of each?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A statement is laid the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 39.]

Export of Handloom Cloth

*1007. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable decline in the export of Handloom cloth during the year 1958; and

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The exports during 1958 have been less than the exports in 1957.

(b) The quantity and value of exports during 1957 was 37 million yards and Rs. 55·63 million respectively. The volume and value of such exports during 1958, upto November, amounted to 31 million yards and Rs. 45·71 million respectively. The main

causes are the general setback in exports and competition from other countries, and restrictions imposed on imports of handlooms in other countries.

Training of Indian Engineers

*1008. **Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to send Indian Engineers abroad for training in the latest techniques of management of industries; and

(b) if so, when they are likely to be sent and the countries to which they will be sent?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir; Government have no plan, but the National Productivity Council has a scheme for sending candidates for one year training abroad in the fields of Industrial Engineering, Industrial Management and Industrial Relations under T.C.M. aid.

(b) Further details are yet to be settled.

Chandigarh Capital Project

*1009. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Siddananjappa:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 715 on the 8th December, 1958 and state:

(a) the nature of action taken regarding additional outlay for the Chandigarh Capital Project; and

(b) the details of the new items of work in the Project?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Against an additional outlay of Rs. 7·56 crores proposed by the State Government for new works at Chandigarh in January, 1957 the Working Group recommended an additional provision of Rs. 189·22 lakhs—20 lakhs for additional accommodation for the High Court as proposed by the Punjab Government, 135·11 lakhs for construction of residential accomodation for Government servants against a sum of Rs. 420 lakhs as proposed and Rs. 34·11 lakhs for establishment charges for these new works at the proposed rate. This was accepted by the Planning Commission.

Economy in Building Constructions

*1010. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) how far the recommendations made by the Indian Standards Institution and the National Buildings Organisation regarding economical specifications, standard designs, conservation of materials and lower safety margin are being taken into consideration while putting up new buildings; and

(b) how much saving has been effected due to these recommendations during 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) It is understood that quite a large number of Government departments have adopted the Indian Standards specifications for buildings materials and that the recommendations made by the National Buildings Organisation from time to time have also been adopted by construction agencies wherever possible.

(b) It is very difficult to make an accurate assessment of the savings effected, but we are taking steps to ensure that a broad indication is obtained from our constructing agencies of the nature and extent of savings involved, as a result of economy in methods of construction and by use of alternative building materials etc.

Cement Purchased by Government

*1011. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have paid a higher price for the cement purchased in 1958 as compared to 1957; and

(b) the total quantities of cement bought in 1957 and 1958 and the total price paid each year?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Sugar Co-operative Factory in Madras

*1012. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 107 on the 20th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the fourth Sugar Co-operative Factory in Madras State has been started;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the same;

(c) the probable date when the factory will go into production; and

(d) the capacity of the factory?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The capacity targetted for the sugar industry for the Second Five Year Plan period has already been licensed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. In view of this and the prevailing foreign exchange stringency it is unlikely that fourth Co-operative Sugar Factory will be taken up during the Second Five Year Plan period in the Madras State.

Project Employment Exchanges

1482. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Project Employment Exchanges, if any, set up for the major projects (Statewise) so far; and

(b) the number and names of such Project Employment Exchanges to be set up during the remaining period of Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) New Project Exchanges:

Name of the river valley project	Location of Exchange
1. Nagarjunsagar Dam Project	Nagarjunsagar.
2. Rihand Dam Project	Rihand.
3. Koyna Dam Project	Koyna.
Steel Projects :	
1. Rourkela Stee Plant	Rourkela.
2. Bhilai Steel Plant	Drug.
3. Durgapur Steel Plant	Durgapur.
River Valley Projects being served by existing Exchanges	
1. Damodar Valley Corporation	(i) Kumardhubi for Bihar area of the DVC projects. (ii) Asansol for the West Bengal area of the D. V. C. Projects.

Name of the river valley project	Location of Exchange
2. Hirakud Dam Project	Sambalpur.
3. Chambal Dam Project .	. (*i*) Kotah Exchange for Rajasthan area of the project.
	(*ii*) Gwalior Exchange for the Madhya Pradesh area of the Project.
(*b*) Kosi Dam Project	Birpur.
Bhakra Nangal Dam Project	Nangal.

Setting up of State Housing Boards

1483. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 695 on the 8th December, 1958 and state the names of the States which have enacted legislation to set up the State Housing Boards for constructing and managing Housing Estates and financing housing activities in States?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): The communications received in this regard from the State Governments so far, indicate that statutory Housing Boards are already functioning in Bombay and Mysore States. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have enacted legislation for constituting a Housing Board; and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have decided to extend the former Hyderabad Housing Board Act, 1956 (which has not so far been implemented) to the entire State of Andhra Pradesh and to implement it from 1st April, 1959. In addition, the Madras Government are considering the question of placing their non-statutory Housing Board on a statutory footing.

Industrial Relations

1484. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 552 on the 29th November, 1958 and state at what stage is the question of undertaking studies on the working of important statutes governing industrial relations?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): A Committee of the Standing Labour Committee at its meeting held on the 16th and 17th January, 1959 at Bombay considered the suggestions for amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The recommendations of this Committee and other subjects concerning industrial relations will be considered in detail at the next session of the Indian Labour Conference.

Press Information Bureau Offices in Punjab

1485. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state the number of branch offices of the Press Information Bureau which have been opened during 1958-59 in Punjab?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): No branch office of the Press Information Bureau has been opened during 1958-59 in Punjab.

Tea Cultivation

1486. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the total and additional area brought under tea cultivation during 1958 (State-wise)?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Relevant information is collected from tea estates only on financial year basis. A statement showing the additional area brought under tea during the year 1957-58 is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 40.]

Export of Engineering Goods

1487. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the main items of engineering goods exported during 1958; and

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned thereby?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). In the official statistics published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, there is no such general classification as 'Engineering Goods' which is too vague a term. Information in respect of value of individual items exported from India is published regularly in the 'Monthly Statistics of India's Foreign Trade'.

Export of Manganese Ore

1488. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of manganese ore during 1958 (State-wise); and

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned thereby?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Statewise export figures are not available. The total export of manganese ore during 1958 (January-November) was 8,36,000 tons valued at Rs. 1,411 lacs.

Import of Radio Sets

1489. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of radio sets imported during 1958; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). There is a total ban on the commercial import of radios since October, 1957. However, as a part of personal baggage, about 1,500 radios costing Rs. 4 lakhs have come in during January-November, 1958.

Passports for U.S.A.

1490. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued for U.S.A. during the last five years (year-wise); and

(b) the number of Indian immigrants at present in U.S.A.?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The number of passports issued for U.S.A. during the last five years (year-wise) is given below:—

1954	..	4255
1955	..	3987
1956	..	5141
1957	..	4331
1958	..	3653

(b) The total number of immigrants of Indian origin into the U.S.A. upto the end of June, 1958 is estimated to be 2,924.

Goa-Bombay Steamer Services

1491. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2208 on the 17th September, 1958 and state whether any decision has since been taken to start steamer services between Goa and Bombay?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The proposal is still under consideration but at present it is not likely to be accepted.

Indians in Burma

1492. { Shri D. C. Sharma: / Shri K. U. Parmar:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2206 on the 17th September, 1958 and state the number of Indian nationals affected by the Land Nationalisation Act in Burma, who have been paid compensation

during the period July 1958 to the 31st January, 1959?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The number of Indian nationals affected by the Burmese Land Nationalisation Act is not known. The Government of Burma do not maintain nationality-wise statistics in this respect.

It is, however, informally understood that 298 claims from Indian nationals, involving a sum of Rs. 5,35,659, were paid during the period from the 1st July, 1958 to the 31st January 1959.

Export of Jute Goods

1493. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of Indian jute goods trade with Japan and Egypt during the year 1958-59 so far;

(b) whether there is any decline in the trade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The value of jute goods exported to Egypt during January—November 1958 was nearly Rs. 2·4 crores; the volume of trade with Japan during the same period was "nil".

(b) Yes, Sir, so far as Egypt is concerned.

(c) No special steps have been considered in respect of Egypt.

As Japan has got her own Jute manufacturing industry, there is no possibility of trade in jute goods with that country.

Medium Industrial Estates in Orissa

1494. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up medium industrial Estates in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with their location?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The Orissa Government propose to set up five Industrial Estates during the Second Plan period. The location and estimated cost of these estates are given below. The Estate proposed for Rourkela is medium sized:—

Location	*Cost* (Rs. in lakhs)
Cuttack	33·69
Jharsuguda	5·97
Rourkela	12·44
Berhampur	6·13
Kendrapara	4·47
Total	62·70 lakhs

Grant of Industrial Licences

1495. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is consulted before industrial licences are granted for new units;

(b) whether the opinion of the Planning Commission was taken before licences were given for Dunlops to start a Rubber Tyre factory at Madras or the Tata Italian combination to start a tyre factory in Bombay State; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for recommending such licences?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, but the Planning Commission is represented on the Licensing Committee set up under clause 10 of the Registration and Licensing of Industrial Undertakings Rules for making recommendations regarding the licensing of industrial units, and is specifically consulted if any important issue arises.

(b) The Planning Commission was not specifically consulted.

(c) The Licensing Committee recommended the grant of licences be-

cause new capacity is required in order to meet fully the anticipated demand. In the case of the Madras factory of Dunlops there was the further consideration that the establishment of a plant in the South would contribute to greater dispersal of the rubber tyre manufacturing industry.

Statements of Account Issued to Displaced Claimants

1496. Shri Onkar Lal: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state the number of Statements of Account issued under the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act of 1954 so far?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Up to 31st January, 1959, 51,159 Statements of Account have been issued.

Export of Machines and Plant to Burma

1497. Shri Siddananjappa: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the steps the Government of India are taking to encourage Indian firms to export their products to Burma in view of the fact that the Burmese Government have recently issued licences for import into that country of a large variety of machines and plant?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The fact that the Government of Burma has issued licences for the import of a large variety of machines has been brought to the notice of the Engineering Export Promotion Council and the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, who will arrange suitable publicity among exporters.

Export of Kyanite Ore

1498. Shri Siddananjappa: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of Kyanite ore from India have increased;

(b) if so, by how much; and

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned from the exports of this ore in 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By 32,000 cwt. in 1957-58 over the exports in the preceding year.

(c) Rs. 80 lakhs.

Establishment of Soda Ash Factory in Andhra Pradesh

1499. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a Soda Ash Factory in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pakur Quarry Workers

1500. { Shri P. G. Sen: Shri Barman: Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the items of conciliation agreement dated the 8th July, 1956 on the past demands of Pakur Quarry Workers' Union and those after the strike being called off on the 27th June, 1957, have been implemented in full;

(b) whether a siren has been installed to avoid exacting over-time and repeated disputes there for time-rated machine mazdoors employed in 45 plants under different managements in quarry siding, Pakur; and

(c) whether any quarry workers welfare fund similar to that of coal

mines labour welfare fund has been started for the health, education and welfare of the workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A siren has been provided at the Gopalpur Mine for regulating working hours. Another owner has provided a whistle. In all other cases bells have been provided at crusher plants which are situated very near the mine workings so that the time signal can be heard by all mine workers.

(c) No.

I.L.O. Expert for Madras

1501. Shri Keshava: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) at whose instance the services of an I.L.O. productivity expert in transport have been made available to Madras; and

(b) whether his services are being spared for the State of Mysore?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) At the request of the Madras Government.

(b) No request has so far been received from the Mysore Government.

Visitors from Pakistan and *Vice Versa*

1502. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani nationals from East and West Pakistan separately who visited India during the year 1958; and

(b) the number of Indians who visited East and West Pakistan separately during the same period?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) *6,45,742 Pakistan nationals visited India from East Pakistan and 61,353 Pakistan nationals visited India from West Pakistan during 1958.

(b) *2,22,896 Indian nationals visited East Pakistan and 88,346 Indian nationals visited West Pakistan during the same period.

Calcium Carbide

1503. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of calcium carbide in India is considerably lower than that needed for internal consumption; and

(b) if so, the nature of the steps taken or propose to be taken to make the country self-sufficient in this respect?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to increase the indigenous production by licensing additional capacity through expansion of existing units and installation of new units.

Installation of Statues in Delhi and New Delhi

1504. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta / Shri Bhakt Darshan: / Shri D. C. Sharma: / Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1040 on the 8th December, 1958 and state at what stage is the question of installation of statues at suitable places in Delhi and New Delhi?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): The Advisory Committee on the installation of statues in the Capital have

*This figure does not include Pakistan|Indian nationals who entered|left Assam during 1-11-58 to 31-12-1958.

not been able to make any specific recommendations to the Government of India as the proposals received by them were either not duly supported by offers of funds or were, in certain cases, withdrawn by the sponsors.

Trade with Japan

1505. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the export of Indian goods to Japan during 1958-59 in comparison with that of 1957-58; and

(b) whether the imports into India from Japan have declined during 1958-59 as compared to 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement showing figures of India's export to and import from Japan for 1957-58 and 1958-59 (April-November 1958) is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 41].

Legislation for Motor Transport Workers

1506. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 850 on the 11th December, 1958 and state at what stage is the question of enacting legislation to regulate working conditions of motor transport workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The various proposals regarding hours of work, spread-over and payment for overtime work for motor transport workers are still under examination of the Central Government.

Partition Committee

1507. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 8 on the 17th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any more meetings of the Partition Committee of the West Pakistan and Punjab Governments were held to discuss matters regarding which agreement was not reached; and

(b) if so, the matters regarding which decisions have been reached?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No Sir. No further meeting of the Partition Committee of the Governments of West Pakistan and Punjab has since been held.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Gunny Bags

1508. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Department purchased gunny bags during November or December, 1958; and

(b) whether the prices were lower than the minimum prices fixed by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 46,400 bales (139,20,000 pieces) of B Twill Jute Bags valued at Rs. 133.42 lakhs were purchased on the 9th December, 1958 by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, on behalf of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture—Department of Food.

(b) Purchases were made at prices lower than the floor prices notified by the Indian Jute Mills Association to their members.

India 1958 Exhibition

1509. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new appointments made, if any, for the "India 1958" Exhibition category-wise and the scale of their pay (excluding daily labourers); and

(b) whether any of the posts are to be made permanent?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A statement is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 42].

(b) No, Sir.

Handloom Weaving Co-operative Societies in Punjab

1510 **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) how many handloom weaving co-operative societies are there in Punjab (District-wise);

(b) whether any survey has been made of weavers and, if so, with what results; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring all the weavers under co-operatives?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) 588 on 31st December, 1958. District-wise figures are not available.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has been reported by the State Government that the Survey Report will be published shortly.

(c) Weavers outside the co-operative fold are progressively persuaded to join co-operative societies or form new ones. As an incentive measure, loans and grants are given as financial assistance for contribution to share capital and for purchase of equipment etc.

दिल्ली में श्रमिक कल्याण विभाग

१५११. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली के संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में अभी तक श्रमिक कल्याण विभाग स्थापित नहीं किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इसके कब तक स्थापित होने की आशा है ?

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आविद अली) : (क) से (ग). एक पूरे समय के श्रम कल्याण अफसर के अधीन उद्योग और श्रम विभाग में एक श्रम कल्याण अनुभाग १-७-१९५७ से काम कर रहा है ।

Industrial Estate in Batala

1512. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 24 on the 17th November, 1958 and state the up-to-date progress made in constructing buildings for the Industrial Estate at Batala in district Gurdaspur?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): A piece of land measuring about 30 acres has been selected and necessary steps for its acquisition are being taken by the State Government. The construction work of Industrial Units, Roads, Drainage etc. is proposed to be taken up during 1959-60.

National Small Industries Corporation

1513. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Small Industries Corporation has accepted applications from small industries in Orissa under the scheme for supplying machinery on hire-purchase;

(b) if so, the number of applications received and accepted so far from Orissa; and

(c) whether machinery has since been supplied to small-scale industries in Orissa?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 10 applications covering 47 machines valued about Rs. 7.76 lakhs were accepted out of which 7 applications covering 42 machines valued at Rs. 5.71 lakhs were either withdrawn after acceptance or rejected for non-receipt of earnest money etc. As such 3 applications covering 5 machines valued at Rs. 2,05,120/- were finally accepted.

(c) Orders for three machines have already been placed, out of which 2 machines have been delivered and action is in progress for the other machines.

Co-operative Societies in Manipur

1514. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hand-pounding Co-operative Societies registered in Manipur;

(b) the number of such societies which were granted loans by the Manipur Administration during 1958; and

(c) the largest amount of loan granted so far to a single co-operative society?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) 22.

(b) Nil.

(c) Rs. 23,875 during 1956-57.

नेपाल जाने वाले यात्री

१५१५. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का शिवरात्रि के अवसर पर नेपाल जाने वाले यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिये प्रथमोपचार आदि का प्रबन्ध करने का विचार है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस मात्रा में और कब से ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू): (क) और (ख). हमेशा की तरह, बिहार सरकार ने शिवरात्रि के अवसर पर नेपाल जानेवाले भारतीय तीर्थयात्रियों के लिये रक्सौल में हैजे के टीके लगाने का इन्तजाम कर दिया है, रक्सौल वह स्थान है जहां तीर्थयात्री भारतीय सीमा को पार करते हैं। इसके अलावा, बिहार सरकार ने इस साल रक्सौल में एक प्राथमिक चिकित्सा केंद्र (फर्स्ट एड पोस्ट) भी स्थापित कर दिया है। ये इन्तजाम १ मार्च १९५९ से कर दिये गये हैं।

Career Pamphlets

1516. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any career pamphlets have been published;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the languages in which they have been published; and

(d) the mode of their distribution?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) 51.

(c) 51 in English. Of these 36 have been translated in Hindi and 19 in Oriyya.

(d) Priced copies are on sale at Government Book-sellers and at all Employment Exchanges. They are also put up for sale at exhibitions, *melas* and conferences. Two complimentary copies are sent to all High Schools through the State Directors of National Employment Service.

Employees' Provident Fund Act.

1517. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contraventions of Section 14 of the Employees' Provident Fund Act that have taken place in the year 1958; and

(b) in how many cases there have been convictions?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The total number of contraventions and convictions from the inception of the Scheme to the 31st January, 1959 are given below:

(a) Contraventions—1,509.

(b) Convictions—553.

The figures for 1958 only are not readily available.

Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd.

1518. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange saved since the production started at the Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd.?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The foreign exchange saved, consequent on the reduction in imports of fertilizers due to Sindri's Production, is about Rs. 60 crores upto 31st December, 1958.

Manufacture of Tungsten Carbide

1519. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any response from any private enterpreneur for the manufacture of tungsten carbide;

(b) if so, the names of firms interested in this industry; and

(c) whether any final decision has since been taken?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (c). A number of enquiries have been received in regard to setting up of manufacture of tungsten carbide. Concrete proposals are however not yet received and as such no final decision has been taken thereon.

Employment in West Bengal

1520. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment opportunities in West Bengal failed to improve during 1958;

(b) the total number of vacancies notified in public sector and those in private sector during the above period;

(c) the number of industries closed down;

(d) the number of persons declared surplus or retrenched due to nationalisation or closure; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the rate of new jobs created under the Second Five Year Plan has slowed down?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No assessment has been made.

(b) In the public sector—20,838.
In the private sector—5,317.

(c) Four jute mills are reported to have closed.

(d) All surplus persons were absorbed in other mills. The actual number is not known.

(e) No specific information is available.

Educated Unemployed in West Bengal

1521. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of educated unemployed in West Bengal has increased;

(b) what has been the effect of the schemes undertaken by Government to reduce educated unemployed;

(c) whether any further schemes are under consideration; and

(d) if so, what are they?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) The number of educated unemployed in the State as a whole is not known. The number of educated applicants (matriculates and above) registered with the Employment Exchanges rose by 4,226 during 1958.

(b) The overall effect of plan schemes is unknown. In West Bengal, 188 persons have been trained at the pilot Work and Orientation Centre for Educated Unemployed which was set up in May 1958 under a special scheme and 147 are under training.

(c) Yes.

(d) (1) The establishment of Work & Orientation Centres under a revised scheme.

(2) The establishment of Goods Transport Cooperative Societies.

(3) An Apprenticeship Training Scheme.

Industries in Dharmanagar, Tripura

1522. Shri Bangshi Thakur: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to start industries in Dharmanagar, Tripura on the basis of availability of raw materials; and

(b) if so, when and what are those industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey of the Tripura administrative area is proposed to be taken up to explore the possibility of setting up industries in this area on the basis of locally availabe raw materials. A pulp mill and a small sugar plant are at present under contemplation. These schemes will be included in the Third Five Year Plan as and when power supply is available.

Rural Industrialisation Programme

1523. { Shri Wodeyar: / Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to States for the development of Cottage and Small-Scale Industries under execution in the rural parts of the Country in 1958-59; and

(b) the amounts spent by each State so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A statement showing the industry-wise and State-wise Central assistance allocated for 1958-59 for cottage and small scale industries is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 43]. The major portion of the developmental schemes in respect of *khadi* (traditional and Ambar),

village industries, handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and coir are for execution in the rural parts. Schemes relating to small scale industries and powerlooms are also being implemented in the urban and rural parts of the country.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 44.]

Employment Exchanges in Delhi

1524. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state the number of unemployed Graduates, Intermediates and Matriculates on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges in Delhi at present?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The information is given below:

Category	No. on the Live Register as on 31st December, 1958.
(1)	(2)
Graduates	4,034
Intermediates	2,413
Matriculates	16,233
TOTAL	22,680

Mills owned by Birla Brothers.

1525. Shri Sinhasan Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the number of mills owned or managed by the Birla Brothers in India and foreign countries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The Department of Company Law Administration keeps a record of Joint Stock Companies, but maintains no separate list of the trading, manufacturing or other units operating within the legal framework of the companies. While the Department possesses information as to the managerial control exercised over the companies, it is not in a position to indicate as to what extent the ownership of these companies belongs to a particular group.

The information readily available with the Department shows that the three leading managing agency companies in this group, *viz.*, 'Birla Brothers Private Limited', 'Cotton Agents Private Limited' and 'Birla Gwalior Private Limited' which are presumably referred by the Hon'ble member as "the Birla Brothers". manage between them 52 companies, including 23 subsidiaries. Three of these companies are known to function in foreign countries.

Indian Labour Conference

1526. Shri Muhammed Elias: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state the names of those industries and establishments in case of which the recommendations of 15th Session of the Indian Labour Conference in respect of minimum wage had been implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The recommendations were brought to the notice of

the State Governments. No information about the action taken by the State Governments has been received.

Balance of Trade with Australia

1527. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the balance of trade with Australia during the last two years;

(b) whether export of jute, jute goods and textiles to Australia has increased in the year 1958; and

(c) if not, what efforts have been made in this connection?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (c). Two statements are placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 45].

Balance of Trade with Canada

1528. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the balance of trade in the year 1958-59 with Canada; nd

(b) what steps have been taken to increase the export of jute, jute goods and cotton textiles to that country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A statement showing the balance of India's trade with Canada during the period April—November, 1958, for which the latest figures are available, is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 46].

(b) Apart from general export promotion measures, some special steps for increasing exports of Indian jute goods and cotton textiles to Canada have been taken. These are set out in the statement placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 46].

P.T.O. Concession for Coffee Board Staff

1529. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted P.T.O. concessions to the staff of the Coffee Board;

(b) whether the members of the staff of the India Coffee Houses and Depots are entitled to those concessions; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Coffee Board has, with the approval of the Government, granted P.T.O. concessions to its employees.

(b) Staff working in the Pool Depots and Powder Distribution Centres are entitled to this concession. Staff working in the Coffee Houses are not entitled to this concession.

(c) Staff working in Coffee Houses are treated as 'Industrial employees' and just as Government have excluded its 'Industrial employees' from the operation of the orders granting P.T.O. concessions, Coffee Board has also disallowed this concession to its 'Industrial employees'.

Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956

1530. Shri Bimal Ghose: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of new industries in the Public and Private Sectors as indicated in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 has been and is being strictly adhered to; and

(b) if not, the cases where breaches have occurred and the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

French Documentary

1531. Shri Halder: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a French documentary film which was exhibited on the 14th, 18th and 20th of December, 1958, in the Playel Cinema Hall in Paris, scandalising the religious rites of Bengal; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Embassy of India, Paris, who were invited to see the film in question, *viz.* "Splendeur Des Rites Religieus", have stated that the film is not objectionable; on the other hand, a portion of the film was considered highly favourable to India.

Land for Refugee Markets and Colonies

1532. Raja Mahendra Pratap: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the purchase price of the land per square yard for each Government-built refugee market or refugee colony in each State in India and what amount per square yard is being charged for the same land used for the refugee market or refugee colony from the refugees of West Pakistan in each State; and

(b) how much the Government of India have received as rent annually from the West Pakistan refugees for Government-built refugee market or refugee colony in each State and the evacuee properties in India?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The number of units constructed in different States in India is about 2 lakhs. The number of urban evacuee properties is about 2,85,000. The information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in its collection is not considered to be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. If information is required about any particular market or colony, an effort will be made to collect it.

Export of Indian Goods to Afghanistan

1533. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the export of Indian goods to Afghanistan during 1958-59 so far in comparison with that of 1957-58; and

(b) whether the exports from Afghanistan have declined during 1958-59?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement showing our exports to and imports from Afghanistan during 1957-58 and 1958-59 (April-November) is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 47].

Nangal Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd.

1534. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regular skilled and unskilled employees working in the Nangal Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd.,

(b) the number of ousteos among them; and

(c) the number among them belonging to Scheduled Castes?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a)	Skilled	.. 343
	Unskilled	.. 488
(b)	Skilled	.. 87
	Unskilled	.. 218
(c)	Skilled	.. 9
	Unskilled	.. 92

कपड़ा मिल, खरगोन

१५३५. **श्री रा० का० वर्मा** : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जिला निमाड़ के खरगोन नामक स्थान में एक कपड़ा मिल स्थापित करने का निश्चय किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रयोजन के लिये कौन-सा स्थान चुना गया है; और

(ग) मिल का कार्य कब से आरम्भ होगा ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) से (ग). एक विवरण पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) और (ख). १९५६ में दिये जाने के लिये बहुत ही थोड़े तकुए उपलब्ध थे । सरकार की नीति के अनुसार मिलों को ये तकुए निम्नलिखित प्राथमिकता के आधार पर दिये गये :—

(१) पुनर्वास मंत्रालय या राज्य सरकारों द्वारा चलाई गयी शरणार्थी पुनर्वास की योजनाये ।

(२) सहकारी समितियों या राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सरकारी क्षेत्र में स्थापित किये जाने वाले कताई मिल जिनसे उचित दरों पर हथकरघा उद्योग को सूत दिया जा सके ।

मध्य प्रदेश (तत्कालीन मध्य भारत) सरकार ने सरकारी क्षेत्र में एक कताई मिल स्थापित करने की योजना पेश की थी जिससे उचित दरों पर हथकरघा उद्योग को सूत दिया जा सके । इस योजना पर योजना आयोग ने स्वीकृति दे दी थी । तदनुसार, मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार का २५ मई, १९५७ को एक लाइसेंस दे दिया गया था । राज्य सरकार ने यह मिल पश्चिमी नीमाड़ जिले के सनावद नामक स्थान पर स्थापित करने का निश्चय किया है :

(ग) इस मिल की स्थापना के लिये निम्न कदम उठाये जा चुके हैं :—

(१) आवश्यक वित्त जुटाने की व्यवस्था की जा चुकी है;

(२) ८.१८ लाख रु० के मूल्य की आवश्यक टैक्सटाइल मशीनों के अस्थायी आर्डर दिये जा चुके हैं; और

(३) शैल्पिक और प्रशासकीय स्थानों की स्वीकृति दी जा चुकी है और इन पर नियुक्तियां करने का काम चल रहा है ।

आशा है कि यह मिल दूसरी पंच वर्षीय आयोजना की अवधि समाप्त होने तक चालू हो जायेगी ।

पाकिस्तान से डाकुओं के हमले

१५३६. **श्री सरजू पांडे** : क्या **प्रधान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जमाल सिंह नाम का डाकू जिसने १९५३ में पाकिस्तान में शरण ली थी, भारत के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों पर प्रायः हमले करता रहता है;

(ख) क्या जमाल सिंह के गिरोह के डाकू निजय सिंह ने फरवरी मास में जैसलमेर के उधानियां नामक ग्राम पर हमला किया था; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो डाकुओं के इन उत्पातों को रोकने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : (क) जगमल सिंह और उसके गिरोह के डाकुओं ने समय-समय पर पाकिस्तान में अपने स्थान से आकर भारतीय प्रदेश के सीमांत क्षेत्रों पर धावे किये हैं ।

(ख) राजस्थान सरकार से एक रिपोर्ट मिली है कि तीन हथियारबन्द डाकुओं ने १२ फरवरी, १९५९ को जैसलमेर के थाना पोकरन के ओषनिया गांब पर धावा किया और वे पश्चिम पाकिस्तान को लौट गये । इस घटना का विवरण मांगा गया है ।

(ग) इन डाकुओं को पकड़ने के प्रश्न पर पाकिस्तानी अधिकारियों के साथ लिखा-पढ़ी की गई है । राजस्थान और पश्चिम पाकिस्तान के सीमांत अधिकारियों की सामयिक मीटिंगों में इस विषय पर बातचीत भी की जाती है । सीमांत क्षेत्रों के स्थानीय अधिकारियों में सहयोग होने से ही डाकुओं के खिलाफ प्रभावकारी कार्रवाई की जा सकती है ।

Export of Gunny Bags to Burma

1537. **Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports of Gunny bags to Burma are likely to decrease; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mainly the expansion of jute manufacturing industry in Burma.

Import of Cotton

1538. **Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period for the import of Cotton from soft currency areas had been extended; and

(b) if so, till what date and which variety of Cotton was affected thereby?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir. In two instances the period of shipment was extended.

(b) In the first instance the shipment period was extended from the 31st October, 1958 to 31st January, 1959 and in the second case from 31st January, 1959 to 31st March, 1959. The varieties to be imported were cottons stapling of 1-3/16" and above and 1-1/16" and above.

Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Ltd., Bangalore

1540. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of different lathes produced in Hindustan Machine Tools so far;

(b) the production month-wise during the last 12 months; and

(c) the approximate cost of production per unit?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) 666 lathes of Oerlikon design. (This includes 13 lathes assembled from imported components).

	1958	Lathes
(b) :	February	34
	March	22
	April	30
	May	30
	June	25
	July	25
	August	15
	September	15
	October	10
	November	..
	December	25
	January, 1959	30

(c) It is regretted that the cost of production in a commercial undertaking is not advisable to be disclosed. However the sale prices of the Oerlikons type lathes since beginning up to date have been as under:

Year	Hindustan H-22 (ex-factory price)	
	1000 mm	1500 mm
	Rs.	Rs.
1955	42,000	41,000
1956	39,000	41,000
1957	36,000	38,000
1958	29,500	34,000

Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi

1541. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to U.S.Q. No. 1104 on the 8th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has since considered the demands of the employees of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi in consultation with the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan authorities;

(b) if so, the decision taken, if any; and

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, how long it will take to come to a decision in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The demands are still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Decision will be taken as soon as possible.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

1542. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements for hospitalisation under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme in Punjab;

(b) what will be the minimum adequate number of beds required to meet the needs of the insured persons and their families; and

(c) the amount spent on the medical needs of families of insured workers in Punjab so far?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 29 general beds have so far been reserved in the existing hospitals. Unreserved beds are also available to insured persons.

(b) 51 general beds and 37 T.B. beds for the insured persons. Families are entitled to out-door medical care and domiciliary midwifery only under the Scheme.

(c) Figures of expenditure have not yet been compiled as medical care has been extended to the families only with effect from 1st November, 1958.

Plan Publicity in Punjab

1543. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state the amount of money sanctioned in 1958-59 for Plan Publicity in Punjab?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The Planning Commission have approved in the State's Budget a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs for Plan Publicity during 1958-59.

प्रधान मंत्री सहायता कोष

१५४४. **श्री यादव** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 'लोक-नृत्यों की रामायण' के लिये प्रधान मंत्री के सहायता कोष से कुछ राशि दी गई थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कुल कितनी राशि दी गई ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : (क) और (ख). नई दिल्ली के भारती कला केन्द्र को रामलीला नृत्य-नाट्य (बैले) का प्रदर्शन करने के लिये, "प्रधान मंत्री कोष—लोक कला उत्थान" (प्राइम मिनिस्टर्स फंड—प्रोमोशन आफ फोक आर्ट) से (प्रधान मंत्री राष्ट्रीय सहायता कोष से नहीं) ५०,००० रुपये की राशि दी गई थी । यह रकम अगस्त, १९५७ और जुलाई, १९५८ में पच्चीस-पच्चीस हजार रुपयों की दो किस्तों में दी गई थी ।

Cost Structure of Industries

1545. { **Shri Ram Krishan:** / **Shri Bimal Ghose:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to appoint study groups for looking into the cost structure of some important industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of groups appointed with the names of important industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government are thinking of appointing three or four Study Groups for looking into the cost structure of some important industries in India. The details are being worked out in consultation with the Planning Commission.

RE. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

U.S.-PAKISTAN DEFENCE PACT

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I make a humble submission? About my adjournment motion, you were pleased to say that it was a continuing matter. I fail to understand how it could be a continuing matter. My adjournment motion is about the molestation.... (*Interruptions*). It is a new phenomenon. It is not a continuing matter. At the same time they have trespassed into our territory and that is also a new phenomenon. They have looted our property. That is a new phenomenon. These are not continuing matters. Firing only is the continuing matter. If you had given your ruling in that matter in that way, I would have possibly understood it. But here I cannot understand how this matter can be brushed aside as a continuing matter.

Mr. Speaker: The trouble in the border is assuming various shapes and forms. Today he may bring one gun and tomorrow another gun. Likewise, there is molestation and all the other things. We have been discussing this matter from time to time. The hon. Member will have opportunities. Let him gather all the other facts also and place this serious matter at the time of the General Discussion. He may have an opportunity. Almost every day we will have an adjournment motion and see that this Government goes out of office for this incident, one after the other. I am not going to allow the time of the House to be spent like this. Of course these are all matters which are being taken notice of. I have disallowed it; I am not going to oblige the hon. Member by admitting this adjournment motion.... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, you were pleased to let me collect and gather enough of materials. I have all the material ready at this moment.

Mr. Speaker: But adjournment motion is not the proper remedy. He may choose other remedies.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Sir, I had sent in an adjournment motion on the U.S. defence pact with Pakistan. I do not want it to be considered as an adjournment motion which wants to censure the Government. Obviously, it cannot be so but it is of sufficient importance for the House to adjourn to discuss this matter. As you know various assurances were given by the Deputy Minister about the interpretation on the question as to the application of the Baghdad Pact and the use of arms received under the Baghdad Pact and so on. Now, the U.S.A. is not only giving arms aid but military aid to any type of aggression that may take place. Therefore, it is a very serious thing and this House must take cognisance.... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): My calling attention notice relates to this.

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed the adjournment motion on this account. There is no responsibility on the part of this Government and after 1947, after the establishment of a democratic republic form of Government, it will be treated as a censure against the Government. The other opportunities are open to the hon. Members if they are anxious.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, if I may say, with respect, the question of adjournment motion hardly arises. But quite apart from that, I would beg of you to permit me to make a brief statement on this subject..... (*Interruptions*).

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I will even withdraw my adjournment motion immediately if the hon. Prime Minister makes that statement.

Shri Raghunath Singh: There is a calling attention notice on the same point.

Mr. Speaker: Is he prepared to make the statement now?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

I can well understand the concern of Members about this news about the culmination of these long series of talks in the signing of a new military pact between the United States of America and the Pakistan Government. This matter has been before us in various forms in the last few weeks or more. In fact, it was as a result of the revolution in Iraq in July last that this question arose before the countries of the Baghdad Pact. They saw that the Baghdad pact had been dealt a mortal blow by Baghdad going out of it and hence they had meetings, I believe, in London. Then, soon after, certain provisional or other decisions were taken to have bilateral pacts to replace in effect the Baghdad pact which, though continuing in form, had lost substance. We were concerned naturally and we followed these proceedings in so far as we could. We were not in, of course. On many occasions we have expressed our concern about it to the United States Government because new accounts were appearing in the world's Press about this and on many occasions we were assured that this was merely some past commitment being carried on and there was no question of any special or additional military aid and certainly it was not aimed against India and it was confined to the previous purpose of the Baghdad pact. So far as we were concerned, we were not enamoured of the Baghdad pact at any time. In fact we did not like any military pact, more especially, such as concerned us or concerned our safety. We did not like it. But anyhow, we were given this assurance that this was a repetition of some old commitment and nothing new and the nature of it would not change even in the bilateral pact. That has been the position. I have stated that—as the hon. lady Member stated just now—about these assurances.

Now, a reference has been made to this pact in this morning's papers. We have not seen the full text of it. It is possible that the text may be made public because I think—it is said—that it would be registered at

the United Nations; if it is so, then it would be made public and if it is made public, we shall examine it and if the House so desires, I can place a copy on the Table of the House.

But I should like to add that last evening the Ambassador of the United States visited our Foreign Office—not me but the Foreign Secretary—presumably after the signature of this bilateral treaty at Ankara and he told the Foreign Secretary, he repeated in fact, what he had said previously that this was not anything special or additional, this was an old commitment about military aid, etc. and he specially repeated that this was governed by the Congressional resolution which is often called the Eisenhower Doctrine. That is to say, that it only applied to communist aggression and to none other.

Now, I am, as I said, repeating what they have said. I do not personally think that any kind of aggression is likely to be prevented or any security to be added to by such pacts. That is my personal view. But, anyhow, this is the assurance he gave last evening.

This morning's newspapers state that the Foreign Secretary of the Pakistan Government has put a different interpretation to it (*Interruption*). There is apparently a conflict between the interpretation put by the United States Government and the Pakistan Government. We propose to point this out to the United States Government or their representatives and to enquire which is the correct interpretation; in fact, find out what the facts are as far as we can. That is all we can do, Sir, at this stage. But I thought it would be desirable for me to place these facts before the House.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the U.S. Ambassador who met our Foreign Secretary last evening gave us a categorical assurance to the effect that these commitments would not be utilised against India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said, Sir, what I had to say.

RE: ALLEGED LEAKAGE OF BUDGET PAPER

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I have submitted an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: I have not looked into it. I will look into it and bring it up on Monday if necessary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I have to fight my election petition case, and I am going away. This is a very serious matter, Sir, leakage of budget papers. I have sent you photostat copy of a letter also.

Mr. Speaker: No hon. Member on account of his own case elsewhere ought to hustle this House. Hon. Member gave me a notice saying that there has been leakage of budget information, budget papers. He also supplied photostat copy of some letter wherein it is said that these matters are already known to the writer and therefore they must take care. Just as I was entering the House I got it. I have to look into it and see whether I should bring it up, whether there is a breach of privilege and what exactly this House can do. I only say that we will wait till Monday. Had we been sitting tomorrow I would have brought it up tomorrow if possible. Hon. Member must get his case adjourned. I cannot oblige him by allowing him to raise an issue here without knowing what exactly it is. I cannot allow the time of the House to be taken away like this. Therefore, this matter will stand over till Monday Hon. Member must make his own arrangements or ask some other person to take it up.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then it should be fixed for Tuesday, Sir, because I will not be here on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I have no objection.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT COMPANIES

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of each of the following Reports:—

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

[*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-1263/59]

(ii) Annual Report of the Travancore Minerals (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

[*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-1264/59].

AMENDMENT TO CENTRAL SILK BOARD RULES

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, a copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 208 dated the 21st February, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955.

[*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-1265/59].

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. S.O. 250 dated the 31st January, 1959 as amended by Notification No. S.O. 291 dated the 7th February, 1959.

[*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-1266/59].

HALF-YEARLY REPORT OF COIR BOARD

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, a copy of the Report on the working of the Coir Board for the half-year ending the 30th September, 1958.

[*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-1267/59].

12.14 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

NINTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Committee of Privileges.

12·15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACTIVITIES OF HOSTILE NAGAS IN ASSAM

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The resumption of activities by the hostile Nagas in Assam."

But, Sir, the Prime Minister has gone.

Mr. Speaker: There is another Minister who will answer it.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, on the evening of the 20th February, 1959, two separate groups of Naga Home Guards, each estimated at 40 to 50 in strength, armed with rifles and stenguns and wearing olive-green military uniforms carried out raids on Naga-Jangka and Naginijan Tea Estates under Titabar and Teok Police Stations in the Sibsagar District of Assam. Naga-Jangka Tea garden is about 15 miles South East of Jorhat and Naginijan is about 20 miles South East of Jorhat. The two Tea Estates

are separated by a distance of about 6 miles.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In the first case the raiders, who apparently lay in ambush near Naga-Jangka Tea garden earlier in the day, overpowered 7 labourers of the garden who had gone that side for shooting in the foot-hills and snatched away two guns with 9 cartridges from them. All the labourers except one were detained for the whole day and released after sun-set. The person who was detained was later made to show the raiders the Marwari firms. At about 7.30 P.M. the Naga Home Guards came down to the garden and divided themselves into two groups. One group attacked the firm of the garden Banker and at the point of rifles looted away cash, ornaments and other foodstuffs of the approximate value of Rs. 10,000. The other group ransacked a shop nearby in the village and took away cash and other articles valued at Rs. 3,000. During their retreat, the Naga Home Guards opened fire indiscriminately towards the garden hospital, killing two women labourers and injuring five others. Three of the seriously injured persons were removed to Cinamara Central Hospital. The Naga Home Guards also forced one labourer to carry a bag of rice with them. He was released at 10.30 A.M. on the following morning.

On receipt of the information regarding this raid at the nearest Army post at Mariani (9 miles South East of Jorhat), the Company Commander along with one platoon moved out of Mariani and reached Nagejunka at 20.00 hours. The troops searched the area up to the border along the route alleged to have been taken by the raiders, but could not contact the raiders.

On the same evening the second batch of raiders looted about 40 shops in Naginijan bazar under Teok Police Station and took away cash, clothes, foodstuffs and other articles. Later they (NHGs) looted two Marwari shops and removed cash and properties worth Rs. 500 and Rs. 150 respectively. The NHGs also attacked several pedestrians and cyclists and looted two cycles and a few wrist-watches and small purses etc. On their way back, they looted a liquor shop and took away about Rs. 5,000 in cash and four gallons of liquor. The owner of the liquor shop was taken as hostage at the point of rifle for a distance of about a mile and then released with a warning not to disclose the identity of the raiders.

On receipt of the information of this raid two sections of Assam Police moved from Debrapara (12 miles South East of Jorhat) to Naginijan and reached the place of incident at 21.30 hours on the same day. No raiders, however, could be contacted.

It appears that the intention of the raiders in both the cases was to loot cash, clothing and other articles. Several cases have been registered in Titabar and Teok Police Stations. We have also received information indicating that Naga Hostiles are intensifying activities on the borders of Manipur and the Assam Plains.

The Army has taken immediate measures to prevent recurrence of such raids. The steps taken include the following:—

(a) Intensive day and night patrolling throughout the Plains Sector is being carried out. The patrols have been instructed to visit the maximum number of villages along border to restore confidence amongst the locals.

(b) Ambushes are being laid at all likely approaches and routes from the hills.

(c) Mobile patrols have been ordered.

(d) Army posts have been established at Hunwal MZ 7394 (12 miles South East of Jorhat) and Naginijan.

(e) Railway tracks are being patrolled.

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

(f) All night trains are being escorted.

(g) Action is being taken to comb the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area which adjoins the Plains Sector.

12.19 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CLOSURE OF MAHESHWARI DEVI JUTE MILLS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Abid Ali.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, before the hon. Minister makes the statement, I would like to seek one clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not usual to allow any questions after the statement has been made.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time I submitted my adjournment motion I said that the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry will make a statement, because my adjournment motion related to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. I want to know whether the hon. Minister, Shri Abid Ali, is making a statement now which has the concurrence of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, because the real problem related to him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The hon. Member, Shri S. M. Banerjee, wanted to know the position with regard to the notice of closure of the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, Kanpur.

The subject of industrial relations concerning jute industry is within the State sphere. Therefore, details had to be obtained from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. According to the information received from them, the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, Kanpur, has put up a notice of closure on the 23rd February, 1959, notifying that the mills would be closed from the 24th March, 1959, for the following reasons:

(i) Management's inability to bear further losses;

(ii) Low production due to non-cooperation of Labour;

(iii) Deterioration in plant and machinery;

(iv) Unsatisfactory conditions in jute trade; and

(v) Failure to raise adequate finances to replace old machinery.

The closure of the mills is likely to involve 1,118 workers. The State Government are examining the reasons for closure with a view to rendering such legitimate assistance as may be possible.

The Mills had applied in August, 1957, for a loan from the National Industrial Development Corporation for modernization of its machinery. The Corporation could not, however, agree to the grant of the loan as the security offered was inadequate.

12.22 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business for the week commencing Monday, the 9th March, will consist of—

(1) General Discussion of General Budget.

(2) Submission to the Vote of the House of Demands on Account.

(3) Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:

(i) Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill; and

(ii) Cost and Works Accountants Bill;

(4) Discussion on the 14th Report of the Law Commission on the Reform of Judicial Administration, Vols. I and II, on motion to be moved by Shri Easwara Iyer and others at 4.0 P.M. on March 12th.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): The hon. Minister has put down so many Bills for the next week. Next week, we have got 20-hour discussion on the general budget. Then the reply has to be made. So, the whole week is covered and—

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Every day we sit for six hours. So, we fixed all this programme. By next Thursday, the general discussion would be over on Friday 2½ hours remain. Perhaps the hon. Member has not counted correctly.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): This is a motion by a private Member to discuss the report on judicial administration by the Law Commission. I think it is a very important document and to discuss it from 4 to 6 P.M. would not meet the purpose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That case may be made to the Speaker. The hon. Member may see him.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Under the rules we cannot have more than two and a half hours, in any case, if it is a private Members' motion. Unless the rule is going to be amended—

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I think that is the ordinary rule, but the House can suggest a change.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The House can change the rules also.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It can change it and give more time for the discussion of the report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When it is taken up, the sugestion may be made. Now, only the order of business has been stated. When it is coming up before the House,—I mean the report—the hon. Member may put the suggestion to the House.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: When we give our consent by implication for 2½ hours, then it means the House has agreed to it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No consent is required at this moment. The hon Minister has only announced the order of business for next week.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: A motion may be made to the House. I have only stated that the motion will be taken up at 4 P.M. I have not stated that it has to be discussed from such and such a time.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This particular motion will be taken up definitely at 4 P.M. on the 12th. That is perfectly all right. But now, if the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs explains that there is no time restriction, I am quite happy about it; but just a minute earlier.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will appreciate that the time is allotted by the Business Advisory Committee. The report of the Business Advisory Committee is presented to the House for its approval. It is then the time for any hon. Member to just make suggestions or give notice of amendments to the effect that such and such time may be increased. Now, only the announcement has been made in regard to the order of business for next week. No approval of the House is needed at this moment nor are we going to take up the question of time allotted to the motion.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: May I point out one aspect to the House? For this year, we have allotted five hours for the demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Law. The time for that demand never used to be so much before. Only having

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

this report in view, we thought that so much time would be necessary, and then we are allotting 2½ hours for discussing the report. So, we will have 7½ hours at the disposal of the House for the whole thing.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Under the rules, if the motion is moved by any private Member, one cannot have more than 2½ hours. But this report of the Law Commission on reform of judicial administration has created such a countrywide concern and as many members are interested in it, I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to see that the motion for consideration of the report is moved by the Law Minister in which case we can have a full day. This report raises very important issues and it has itself raised many important issues and many hon. Members would have to take more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The views of the hon. Members have now reached the Minister. He will consider and make up his mind.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL*

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1959-60 for the purpose of Railways.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1959-60 for the purpose of Railways".

The motion was adopted

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce† the Bill.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: He is not here.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): On behalf of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th March, 1959".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th March, 1959"

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Now perhaps is the time, as suggested by you, to raise this question. The question has been raised also by the hon. Member on the other side. In view of the weighty observations of a country-wide concern, which have been made by the Law Commission in their report on the reform of judicial administration, it would have been much better—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I am sorry that the report that is being presented does not contain the

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 6-3-59.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

item about which this objection is made. The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th March, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

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*DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1958-59.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We now take up discussion on the supplementary demands for grants in respect of the Railways for 1958-59.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Railway Board'".

DEMAND NO. 2—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,41,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'".

DEMAND NO. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,88,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'".

DEMAND NO. 5—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,53,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'".

DEMAND NO. 6—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,53,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff'".

DEMAND NO. 7—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,53,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'".

DEMAND NO. 8—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,64,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation Other than Staff and Fuel' ".

DEMAND NO. 10—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—LABOUR WELFARE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 43,74,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare' ".

DEMAND NO. 12—DIVIDEND PAYABLE TO GENERAL REVENUES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,36,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Dividend Payable to General Revenues' ".

DEMAND NO. 16—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,58,89,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions' ".

DEMAND NO. 17—OPEN LINE WORKS—REPLACEMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,59,03,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements' ".

DEMAND NO. 19—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES—DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,93,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Charges—Development Fund".

I have received notices of several cut motions. There are several cut motions that are out of order. The following cut motions are out of order as they are extraneous to the items which constitute the demands:

Demand 2: Cut motion 4;

Demand 4: Cut motions 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10;

Demand 5: Cut Motion 11;

Demand 6: Cut motion 2.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): There are demands about surveys. Can we not say why certain surveys were taken up and certain other left out? I am referring to Demand No. 2, page 4.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That survey is included in this.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is not included, then it will be extraneous to the money that is being asked for. The cut motions should relate to the surveys that are mentioned here. If he has certain other survey in his mind, that would be extraneous to the demand.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are very important things.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He might speak on the demand, but his cut motion is out of order. The House

will now take up the demands and the cut motions that are in order.

Pay of officers in the Railway Board

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced be Rs. 100".

Pace of work on Khandwa—Hingoli rail link

Shri Warior (Trichur): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,53,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Absorption of casual labourers working on Khandwa-Hingoli rail link

Shri Warior: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,53,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repaids and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Efficient use of coal

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,37,08,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Schools fees in Railway Schools

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,74,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare be reduced by Rs. 100."

Health and welfare services

Shri Warior: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,74,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite the work of furnishing unit in Integral Coach Factory

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,58,89,000 in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Need for strengthening of the track between Guntakal and Bangalore

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,58,89,000 in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the Demands and cut motion are now before the House.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I want to make a few observations on the supplementary demands, the scope of which is very limited. We have also had a discussion on the railway budget during the last three or four days.

Coming to Demand No. 1, I would like to know what specifically is the work of this Welfare Officer, because in the administration, at the various levels, there are labour welfare inspectors and labour welfare officers. I want to know whether this labour welfare officer who has been appointed in the Railway Board will coordinate the work of these people.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): He is to look after the welfare of the secretarial staff.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Whenever I ask labour welfare officers to go to the colonies of railway employees and look to the sanitation and other amenities there, invariably they do not do it. If at all they go and submit a report about such amenities for the residents of the colonies, the report is not taken note of by the railway administration. When we are spending a lot of money on labour welfare officers and inspectors, they must be effectively made use of and whatever reports they submit should be taken note of by the administration.

Demand No. 2 is a very important demand. About the Igatpuri-Bhusawal electrification engineering survey, already my friend, Shri Bharucha, has talked about the volume of traffic obtaining on that line in the general debate. What I would like to impress on the hon. Minister is, the railways were granted a foreign exchange of Rs. 425 crores. While discussing the foreign exchange position in the second Plan, it was stated that Rs. 290 crores will be given to the railways for foreign exchange. But when we come to the chapter on railways, it is stated that Rs. 425 crores will be the foreign exchange component of the total expenditure on the railways during the Plan period. Granting it Rs. 425 crores, this particular project has been there for the last so many years—13 years or so. Even then they wanted to electrify it, but certain other electrification projects were given priority. There may be good grounds for that, but this is also an equally important project and this should have been taken up. The surveys were conducted long ago, but probably they have to be slightly modified to suit modern conditions. So, it should not be delayed any further.

Regarding the line Kottavalasa to Bailadilla, I am glad this portion of the rail link will go through Andhra. There are very few railway lines in Andhra Pradesh either from the point of view of the density of population or the area. For the preliminary engineering, final location and traffic survey from Kottavalasa to Bailadilla, Rs. 2 lakhs are demanded. I think it is only a token demand, because the preliminary engineering survey itself will consume a lot of time and Rs. 2 lakhs. This is a project which would be taken up in the third Plan or a little earlier. I would like to see that a time-schedule is drawn for this. Otherwise, my experience is that surveys are conducted; the railway administration examines them for a long time and then they are sent to the Railway Board which examines the surveys for a considerable period.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If the hon. Member derives great satisfaction from surveys only, there it is.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There is no doubt that this is a very essential line, because iron ore has to be transported to Japan from Vizag port. From that point of view, this is a very important rail link. So, a time-schedule should be drawn up and the surveys should be conducted within that time.

Then, I have been asking for a stores code from the Railway Board. I have been writing to the Railway Board, but I was told that it will be sent to the Government Bookstall—Kitab Mahal. But whenever I go there, they say it has not come. There is talk about pilferage of stores and so on; so, I want to know about the stores balances, how they are maintained, etc. So, I would request the hon. Minister to expedite printing and supply of these books whenever they are revised. Otherwise, it creates a lot of inconvenience.

The Minister said the other day that they are thinking of certain freight concessions to certain commodities which are exported. I am very glad consultation is going on between the various Ministries concerned, but I am not satisfied with that. I would like a small committee to be appointed to

go into this because it is a very important matter involving foreign exchange, foreign policy, etc. It is not purely a business transaction. So, I would like a small committee consisting of the various Ministers and some prominent public men to be appointed to go into this matter and submit a report within 2 or 3 months.

Coming to Demand No. 5, the Khandwa-Hingoli rail rink was there for a pretty long time. This was taken up in 1953. I may tell you that this rail link was hanging fire for nearly 20 years, because the Government did not decide the gauge policy and it was finally taken up in 1953. Now, six years after it was taken up, only 41 or 42 miles of this link have been opened for traffic. On 1st October when I saw the railway guide, I was very happy to see that certain stations were given and that opening to traffic at these stations will be done in the near future. I was very happy because the railway line had to be extended up to Sirpur on that rail link. So, I put a question asking when this portion of the rail link will be opened to traffic. I was told that it would be done at the end of December, 1959. That means to say this link has taken an unusually long time. When I asked how many bridges had to be constructed, I was told that there are still some more bridges to be constructed. We have spent so many crores of rupees on getting the steel and structural materials. We seem to have paid a little more for all these things. No doubt we require them. A special mission was sent to see that all the iron and steel materials required for our railways are delivered by the end of this year. I would like this work to be expedited.

Today there are about 3,000 casual labour working on the rail links. Some effort should be made to absorb them in the railways. Otherwise, after the link work is over, you will have the same situation as we are having in the Ganga bridge project. Though the Ganga bridge project was completed one year ahead of schedule, the workers are facing retrenchment. There is no assurance of taking them over. If from now onwards you give preference to them in the vacancies that are arising in the Central Railway, then you will not have any trouble later on. Some of these workers are working continuously for 3—5 years. Therefore, efforts should be made to absorb them in class III and class IV posts in the Central Railways as and when vacancies arise.

Now I come to Demand No. 7, Operation (Fuel). I would like to know whether the railways are still carrying coal from Bengal-Bihar coalfields to Southern Railway by ships I am asking this because now our wagon position is quite good. In that case, we should transport our coal from Bihar-Bengal by railways and by that we will be saving a freight of Rs. 1 crore which we now pay to the steamers.

Then I come to Demand No. 8, printing of books and other things. We have got a suburban railway line from Bolarum to Falaknuma. We have surprised to find from the tickets that they are printed in English and Hindi. It is purely a Telugu-speaking area. So, it is absolutely necessary that the names of places in the tickets should be printed in Telugu also. I want the Minister to look into this as otherwise people will be put to a lot of inconvenience.

Then there is the expenditure in connection with uniforms. In some railways these uniforms are being supplied to certain categories of staff; in some other regions it is not supplied. When I raised this question with the Railway Board, I was told that this question has been referred to the Uniform Committee. When I subsequently asked them for a copy of the report of the Uniform Committee, I was told that it is a purely departmental committee. There should be a uniform policy in regard to grant of uniforms, of course with necessary seasonal variations. I do not know the recommendations made by the

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

Uniform Committee, which of them have been accepted and which of them have not been accepted because of the absence of the report in my possession.

Then I come to Demand No. 9. This relates to school fees in the railway schools for the children of railway employees. I have drawn the attention of the Railway Board to some schools at Bitragunda and other places. Those places come under the compulsory education area. That means that whereas the schools located in those areas do not charge any school fee, the children of the railway employees who are studying in the railway school have to pay school fee. Of course, I know the Railway Board has referred this matter to the State Government. I also contacted the Education Minister there and he said he will expedite it. Though one year has passed this issue has not yet been settled.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have not received any reply from them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: So I ask: why not the railways incur this money? Why should the employees of railways pay for the education of their children when others are getting free education? Railways have got so many crores of rupees in the suspense account. The school fee that has to be collected can also be kept in the suspense account. As soon as it is re-imbursed by the State, that account can be cleared. This may be done so that the railway employees may get the benefit of this. Otherwise, it is a violation of the State laws. It is true that the State Government has not given any reply. But why should the railway employees suffer. You have already Rs. 51 crores on the suspense account, although a satisfactory explanation has been given for that. Likewise, in store balance and stock adjustment account there is certain amount in suspense. Of course, all these amounts will be cleared. Similarly, you can have a suspense account for this also. So, I would sincerely suggest to the Minister that from April 1st at least they should be exempted from the payment of school fees.

Now I come to Demand No. 12 relating to payment of interest on the capital at charge. The Railway Convention Committee of 1954 has recommended that there is an element of over-capitalisation to the tune of Rs. 100 crores. The Railway Enquiry Committee also reported that there is a sum of Rs. 100 crores capital for which no physical assets exist and so that should be written off. The Railway Convention Committee have also recommended that it should be written off or some method should be found by which this could be taken away. Now what has happened? Five years have passed. Year after year when a question is put I am told "we are in consultation with the Finance Ministry for evolving a method or formula for removing this over-capitalisation of Rs. 100 crores". If you do away with it, it will be very good. Otherwise, we will be unnecessarily paying some interest on this amount also.

There is a sum of Rs. 20.28 crores in connection with steel, iron and other things we have received recently. Here I would earnestly submit for his consideration one thing. I am referring to the track from Guntakal to Bangalore. For the last 30 years I have been travelling on that line, at least once or twice a year. Anyone who has travelled by this railway line will easily say that there has been no improvement at all on that line. It covers a distance of 174 miles. The same old timings are followed. I do not know what the difficulties are. Though we have been speeding up trains everywhere, in the Guntakal-Bangalore line the same old timings are followed. For the last 30 years there has been no change there, except the addition of one station here or there. If the track is bad, it should be renewed very quickly and the speed should be increased so that from

Secunderabad to Bangalore we can travel a distance of 400 miles within 14 or 15 hours. Now we take about 24 hours for covering this distance of 400 and odd miles. Now the whole pattern of traffic has changed after the re-organisation of States. Now people from Hindpur come to Hyderabad in large numbers. So the speed from Secundrabad to Bangalore has to be speeded up. When in other routes we are covering about 900 miles in 24 hours, in this line we are covering only 430 miles in 24 hours. So, this should be attended to by the Ministry.

I am very happy to know that the cost has come down in the Integral Coach Factory. But I find from the report for 1957-58 that in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works class 1 and class 2 officers number 47. The Integral Coach Factory has also got the same number of officers, namely 47. But whereas the Chittaranjan factory employs about 8,000 employees, the Integral Coach Factory employs only 4,000 workers. But why this administration for the Integral Coach Factory should have so many officers? I do not know. There are 47 officers in Chittaranjan, which is such a huge locomotive works. Here also, in the Integral Coach Factory, there are 47 officers. If you take into consideration the total number in the administration that also is very nearly equal to that of Chittaranjan. This aspect of the question has to be gone into.

Secondly, the second shift was to be introduced in the Integral Coach Factory. It was stated last year that from 1st April, 1959 it will be introduced. I hope they will introduce the second shift from 1st April, 1959. But, at the same time, I would request the hon. Minister to consider the possibilities of introducing a third shift because it is a very new machinery and we can utilise the machinery and other things available to the full capacity and to the full time so that our cost of production of these coaches may go down and at the same time we may have more number of coaches from this Integral Coach Factory.

Then I come to the furnishing unit. Progress in this regard is not at all satisfactory. I will request the Railway Ministry to kindly see that work is properly expedited.

Then, I come to the investment of road transport services. This year I find from the report to which this Supplementary Demand relates that there is a shortfall of Rs. 1·69 crores out of the total amount of Rs. 2·5 crores provided for. Railways have decided that a sum of Rs. 10 crores will be invested in road transport services in the States and this has been set apart. But this year there has been a shortfall.

In Andhra there is a Road Transport Corporation. Firstly, they insisted that unless a corporation is formed they would not invest. Afterwards when the Road Transport Corporation has been formed, they have invested Rs. 50 lakhs. I hope they have been given that because it is shown in the Budget as having been spent. For the coming year, Rs. 22½ lakhs are being provided for. I would request the hon. Minister not to increase the capital of the Corporation otherwise what happens is that if the capital is increased then payment of income-tax by the Road Transport Corporation also increases. If the capital structure or the equity capital is increased to a very great extent, then the income-tax that has to be paid to the Central Government will be increased. Therefore I would request that some portion of the amount need not be invested in the road transport services but it should be given as a loan at a fixed rate of interest. This would encourage the road transport services in the State because they are now embarking on a policy of nationalisation of road transport and the only impediment for them is the lack of resources. So, the Railways should really spend this Rs. 10 crores which has been set apart in the Second Plan. Likewise, Kerala which has refused to form a corporation for various reasons. So, I only request the Central Government that when the States want money out

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

of this they should be given that as a loan. There should be some change of policy. Please do not insist that it should be in the capital.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That the Transport Ministry will decide.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When the Railway Ministry invests the money, it is also represented on the board of directors. So, the money would not go anywhere.

12.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Finally, I would like to know the amount of foreign exchange that we have spent during the last three years of the Plan period so that we can see for the coming years what will be the position and whether we have exceeded the allotment.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह (रोहतक) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत सी डिमान्डस की तहत पैसा अधिक खर्च होने की सम्भावना है, लेकिन जो लाइनें लड़ाई में उठाई गई थीं, या नई लाइनें बिछाने का जो खाता था, उस के अन्दर कम खर्च हुआ । खर्च तो वहां ज्यादा होना चाहिये था ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : किस डिमान्ड पर बोल रहे हैं ?

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : मैं डिमान्ड नं ६५ पर बोल रहा हूं । मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि रेलवे मंत्रालय के पास कोई और लाइनें न हों, तो गोहाना-पानीपत, जहां पर काम जारी था, उसे ही पूरा होने दिया जाता ।

एक और बात जो मेमोरन्डा के अन्दर दी है, वह मेरी समझ में नहीं आई । गोहाना-पानीपत के सिलसिले में लिखा है :

एक्सपेंडिचर अपटु १.५८-५९ ३२.५० लाख रु०

प्राविजन फार १९५९-६० ३.३७ लाख रु०

बलेन्स टु कम्प्लीट १३.४२ लाख रु०

पता नहीं बैलन्स टु कम्प्लीट से रुपयों में मतलब है या माइल्स में । अगर माइल्स से मतलब है तो भी अच्छा है और रुपये से मतलब है तो भी अच्छा है । मैं चाहता हूं कि गोहाना से पानीपत की जो लाइन है वह पूरी की जाये ।

श्री **जगजीवन राम** : साबित हो गया आप हरियाना के हैं ।

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चौ० रणबीर सिंह : सुना है कि एक्सपर्ट्स का ख्याल है कि इन्तजार करना चाहिये कि रोहतक से गोहाना लाइन पर आमदनी पूरी होती है या नहीं । लेकिन रोहतक से गोहाना सेक्शन पर आमदनी तभी हो सकती है जब कि गोहाना से पानीपत तक मिला दिया जाय । पानीपत में शुगर फैक्ट्री है और उधर रोहतक में शुगर फैक्ट्री है । तो काम तो रेलवे के लिये बहुत मिल सकता है, लेकिन रेलवे जानी तो चाहिये । अगर १५ नं० की डिमांड में इस तरह से रुपया बचाने की कोशिश की गई है तो उसे इस हद तक बचाने की कोशिश न की जाय इस के अलावा रोहतक-गोहाना के अलावा मैं कहूंगा कि हमारे देश में लोहे के कारखाने बन रहे हैं । लोहा बहुत ज्यादा तादाद में पैदा होगा और उसे रेल मंत्रालय ही इस्तेमाल कर सकेगा । जो हमारा हिन्दी रीजन है वह बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ इलाका है, उस के अन्दर लाइनें सर्वे की गई । बहादुरगढ़ से भिवानी तक, रोहतक से हिसार तक और सोनीपत से गोहाना होते हुए सफदर तक की लाइन्स की सर्वे का काम शुरू किया जाय । इस के अलावा फतेहाबाद और सिर्सा की लाइन, जिस के लिये पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव कहते हैं, और जहां पर भाखरा बांध का पानी जा रहा है, जिस के बारे में हम से बेटरमेंट लेवी लेने की कोशिश हो रही है

श्री जगजीवन राम : पंडितजी की कांस्टिटयुएन्सी की बात भी कह दीजिये ।

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : इस के अलावा जगाधरी, लुधियाना वाया चंडीगढ़ का भी सवाल है । चंडीगढ़ पर इतना रुपया खर्च किया जा रहा है, जिस को हम हिन्दुस्तान का बहुत बड़ा शहर मानते हैं, रेलवे मंत्रालय उसे अहम न माने यह बात सही नहीं है ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : दूसरे लोग मानते हैं या नहीं ?

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : दूसरे तो मानते हैं । प्राइम मिनिस्टर हर साल दो तीन दफा जाते हैं । इसी से जाहिर होता है कि इस शहर की क्या अहमियत है और हिन्दुस्तान का नाम उस से कितना ऊंचा होता है ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : वह ट्रेन से जाते ही नहीं हैं ।

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : वह ट्रेन से नहीं जाते हैं, लेकिन इस से लोगों के लिये तो उस की अहमियत बढ़ रही है ।

मुझे खुशी है और रेलवे के अन्दर जो मजदूर काम करते हैं उन सब को खुशी है कि श्री जगजीवन राम के आने के बाद एक साल के अन्दर डिमान्ड नं० १० की तहत जो खर्च हुआ है १ करोड़ १५ लाख रु० वह पिछले साल के मुकाबले ज्यादा है । यहं नहीं, बजट के अन्दर जो रुपया पहले रखा गया है उस में भी फालतू खर्च करने की कोशिश की गई है, और वह खर्च संभव है कि ४३.७४ लाख होगा । मैं तो समझता हूं कि यह लाजिम था कि श्री जगजीवन राम इस महकमे के वजीर हों । मजदूरों का अगर वह ख्याल न करें तो यह नहीं हो सकता था । इस खर्च के लिये मैं उन्हें बधाई देता हूं । इस के अलावा दो तीन जगहों पर जरा सोचने वाली बात है । जो सामान खो गया था, उस का कम्पेन्सेशन देने के लिये जो ज्यादा खर्च होने का अनुमान है वह ७८.६६ लाख रुपया है । इस के अलावा मुझे यह भी खुशी है कि आउट एजेंसीज खोलने पर आप ज्यादा रुपया खर्च करेंगे क्योंकि इस से रेलवे मंत्रालय को उसी से ज्यादा मिल सकेगा । इस के साथ साथ एक्सिडेंट्स के लिए मुआवजा देने के लिये २.७० लाख रुपया ज्यादा खर्च होगा और यह जाहिर करता है कि अभी रेलों का काम चलाने का जो तरीका है उस में अभी सुधार करना काफी जरूरी है । मैं चाहता हूं कि यह जो बाकी डिमांड्स हैं लेबर पर ज्यादा खर्च हो, हमें खुशी है लेकिन इसके अलावा दूसरी डिमांड्स के ऊपर खर्च जितना कम से कम हो सके, वह किया जाय और जितना ज्यादा से ज्यादा खर्चा डिस्मैंटिल्ड लाइंस् को रैस्टोर करने के लिए किया जा सकता है, किया जाय ।

Shri Haldar (Diamond Harbour, Reserved—Sch. Castes): I, shall draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway where every day an incident occurs. Perhaps this is the most congested railway section in our country, and not only in India, but in the world also. But against heavy odds the station masters, drivers and other employees do their job there faithully. I have full sympathy for those employees who are rendering this service to our country, but the administration, especially the high officers are responsible for negligence of their duties.

In this conection, I shall mention the accident at Sonarpur station in the Diamond Harbour section which occurred on 26th February 1958. On this no report has been placed before the House up till now. The most strange thing about this accident is this, that the statement of the Station Master who was on duty at that time was not taken by the enquiry committee. This station master has worked for nearly 33 years in the railways, and he has complained against the administration of the railways in a latter to the

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General Manager a few days ago. In that he has said:

> "It beats my conscience to let the public and the India Government know the full facts in detail about the Sonarpur accident case dated 26th February, 1958; as I was then the Station Master at Sonarpur, and no statements were taken from me, so I have minded to publish the same after my retirement from service on 16th January, 1959. and many unknown things will be revealed".

There is the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee which is functioning in our country, but I am astonished why the statement of the Station Master was not taken at the time of the enquiry. There may be some hidden reason. The Station Master complained to the authorities on several points, and he accused the higher authorities for this negligence, and he especially accused the officiating Assistant Operating Superintendent (originally a movement traffic inspector) who has been on duty now for nearly 20 years without a break except for only one year in 1947-48. I do not know why the recommendation of the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee is not implemented, and why an officer is posted.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): What is not implemented?

Shri Halder: This officer has been posted in this division continuously for more than ten years in the same section at Sealdah. He has been posted in this area for practically 20 years without a break, except for one year 1947-48.

There are some bad locomotives because of which trains sometimes stop in out-of-the-way places and as a result the drivers are sometimes beaten. This happened a few days ago, and the driver took shelter under a bush for the whole night for fear of being beaten by the public. Not only the drivers, but even the crew are sometimes insulted for the late running of the trains, and they are afraid of the passengers. Even the station masters suffer the same fate. I have full sympathy for these people, and I only blame the officers and the administration who are responsible for this management.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is not the locomotives that are bad, it is the coal.

Shri Halder: Not only coal the locomotives are sometimes broken. Even the other day, the Calcutta Mail by which we were travelling broke down midway between Etawa and Kanpur, and the train was detained when this House was discussing the late running of trains. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of this.

For the late running of these trains several passengers complained in the complaint book, but to our utter astonishment a case was filed against those passengers who signed in the complaint book. Is it the policy of the Railway Ministry to keep their complaint book clean so that nobody will venture to write anything against the railway administration?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The incident to which the hon. Member is referring is *sub judice*. He should not refer to such incidents.

Mr. Speaker: Very good. He may avoid it.

Shri Halder: Yes, Sir.

There are several cases which are also *sub judice* and our Speaker has also given a ruling on this point. So, I would not like to mention them.

But I shall mention in this connection the name of Shri H. C. Khanna who is Assistant Operating Superintendent of Sealdah Division, against whom there have been several complaints from passengers, station masters and guards. All the statements were taken from these persons, but no steps were taken.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He is making a complaint against one particular officer by name. I do not know whether it will be fair.

Mr. Speaker: Under the rules it is prescribed that in extremely important cases, if the conduct of any particular public servant has to be brought up before the House after exhausting all the remedies available, due notice should be given through me to the Minister in charge so that he may come prepared with all the facts. If not, when a reference is made to X, Y or Z, the Minister may not be able to answer, if he has not got all the facts with him. Therefore, individual cases ought not to be referred to—hon. Member will read the rules—unless it is a matter of great importance when I will allow, in which cases he must intimate the Minister that he is going to raise this point and that he should be prepared. Therefore, he may talk generally and not about individual cases.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He has mentioned already the name of one particular officer.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may reply, if he has got the facts.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am hearing this thing all of a sudden here. No reference to this has been made at any stage before.

Mr. Speaker: What does the hon. Minister want me to do?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That portion should be deleted.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not prepared to delete everything that is said on the floor of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No; you have yourself quoted the rule that if any allegation is to be made against any officer, the grounds should be sent to you first so that I could call for the details and be ready with them and first give them to you and then if necessary, it may be raised in the House. I am suggesting that that rule should be observed.

Mr. Speaker: I agree, but everything that is said on the floor of the House is not expunged. All that I can say is that it will be treated as not having been mentioned; it will continue to be there; it does not matter. The hon. Minister has also said that he may have a lot of explanation with respect to it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: How can I have the explanation here? I shall take time, I cannot give an explanation in respect of the point that the hon. Member has raised, because I am not aware of the facts.

Shri Kodiyan (Quilon-Reserved-Sch. Castes): He can reply to that point later.

Shri Warior: He has given the explanation already that he is not ready with the facts. So, it need not be expunged.

Mr. Speaker: To avoid inconvenience, I would suggest this.

The hon. Minister has suggested that it is embarrassing to him if he is not able to answer; and if he does not answer, it may go as if there is no answer to this, and it will mean that whatever is said against a particular officer has been said and it stands, and this will be broadcast.

I am considering as to whether I should expunge it. I shall look into this matter.

[Mr. Speaker]

Hereafter, hon. Members will try to avoid this sort of reference unless it be that it is a matter of such great importance they must give me an opportunity to consider whether it is of such a great importance that individual cases ought to be brought up here, because there are about nine lakhs of employees. Whenever I find that the person concerned is an important officer, I shall pass on that information to the hon. Minister so that he may come ready.

What does the rule say?

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): It refers to defamatory statements.

Mr. Speaker: Rule 353 says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made.....".

There would be a complaint only if that man has misbehaved or in the office he had not discharged his duties; there would not be any complaint unless he is remiss or he has done this or that.

The rule says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply:

"Provided that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any member from making any such allegation if he is of opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation."

The wording here is 'allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature'. If any officer is accused—of course, whatever he has said is said against an officer, derogatory to his own status and his own duties—it will come under rule 353.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: In that case, what will happen is that our right of speech will be so severly restricted in that it will be impossible to say anything against the administration. Whichever way we may say anything to criticise, it will become defamatory in that sense.

Mr. Speaker: This refers to cases where individual names are mentioned. This will apply only to individual cases. There are about nine lakhs of employees under the railways. If every hon. Member should go on saying, 'My station master did not give me the ticket in time, or he was rude or this or that', shall I go on allowing all those statements to be made here? This applies only to individual cases. Wherever pointed attention is intended to be drawn to any particular case, I shall find out whether it is of such great importance, that the name should be mentioned here; and if it is of substantial importance,, I shall allow the hon. Member to mention the name, in which case, the Minister also will be informed earlier, so that he can come prepared in advance with whatever he has to say so far as that matter is concerned.

Therefore, let it stand. I shall consider what exactly is to be done regarding this matter.

Shri Halder: I have one submission on this point, namely that these officers were placed before the railway vigilance officers, and an inquiry was made; and the statements of the station masters and several guards were also taken. And I do not object.....

Mr. Speaker: I would advise hon. Members to do one thing. Let there be no hesitation; whenever the conduct of any individual officer comes to their notice, let them write to the Minister there and then; they need not even write to the subordinate officers. The Ministers are responsible to the House; whatever any officer may do, the Minister is responsible. Therefore, let them bring to the notice of the Minister, and only in the ultimate resort, come to this House regarding the conduct of any particular officer.

Shri Halder: This matter was also brought to the notice of the Minister by several Members of this House and also by the Assam Railway staff. I have also tabled cut motions on this to the Demand for Grants in the Railway Budget.

Mr. Speaker: That is very good, in which case, what the hon. Member should do is to inform the Minister beforehand that they are going to bring up this matter to day. They may have written to him six months ago, and he may have his own reasons for not....

Shri Warior: The cut motions are there.

Shri Kodiyan: The cut motions have been submitted.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. But has any of those cut motions been referred to now?

Shri Halder: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I shall ask the hon. Minister to address himself to a cut motion which has been not tabled, but moved.

Now, is there a cut motion in relation to a particular individual?

Shri Halder: No.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Nothing is clear from the cut motion. It only relates to inefficiency of officers.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member gives details of the inefficiency in advance, the hon. Minister will certainly reply. Therefore, the hon. Member can only talk generally.

Shri Halder: Then, I shall come to corruption and malpractices in the printing press at Howrah.

I shall not mention the names of the persons who are involved in this matter, but I shall only request the Railway Ministry to inquire into this matter in detail, so that these kinds of corruption many be eradicated in the railways.

I next come to the harassment of the railway employees, who are sometimes harassed by the railway officers. The instances were already brought to the notice of Parliament, but again these things are happening in Sealdah or Howrah, and almost every day, complaints are coming from the railway employees against the GRP or the railway police department people.

Now, I come to the Barasat-Basirhat railway. More than a year ago, Rs. 1·1 crores or so was sanctioned for this. But no work has yet been done.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest one thing to hon. Members.

Individual cases or complaints against bad treatment and corruption and other things come to the Minister; and when the Minister takes strong action, immediately, there is a strike. I am not talking about the case here, but I am talking of any particular case where such a thing happens. So, the Minister and the Members in the Opposition and others must come to an arrangement whereby if strong action is necessary, and it is taken, the Minister will have the support of the Opposition; and the Minister also must take strong action

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whenever it is brought to his notice, and such action or such a kind of punishment is necessary. But what I find is that strong action is suggested, and when the Minister acts, immediately, some other man comes to the help of that person against whom action is taken. Therefore, the Minister also becomes indifferent gradually and starts feeling 'Why should I get into this trouble'?

Shri Warior: It is only when the strong action is misplaced that this thing happens.

Mr. Speaker: I have no particular case in mind, but there are such cases; I am also moving about in the country.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Our experience has been otherwise. Whenever these things are brought to the notice of the Ministry, we have seen that action is not taken.

Mr. Speaker: I can only say this. I am not talking about the railways only. Let us say that in a motor bus service, somebody is dismissed; if all the others join together and then find out whether the dismissal is right or not and they say that the dismissal is improper and that they are going to assist that particular person, that is another matter. But irrespective of the propriety or otherwise of the dismissal, if merely because that particular person belongs to a particular trade union, they say that they are going to support that person and they say, come along, we shall support, that is not proper. I do not want that sort of thing to happen in the railways, when, a number of such instances have to come to our notice. Under these circumstances, as early as possible, an arrangement must be reached between the Government and the leaders of the various groups to this effect that wherever there is anything improper, by all means, they can bring it to the notice of Government, but where proper punishment has been meted out, they will support them. Otherwise, there will be a danger. The Minister will be weak. He cannot go on.

Shri Halder: Regarding the Barasat-Basirhat Railway, while replying the other day, the Minister said that most of the land required has been handed over to the railways but some of the land-owners had gone to the court and obtained injunctions and no further progress could be made until that injunction was vacated and the land was given to the railways. I do not understand this attitude. If somebody objects, why should the railways overlook the interests of the whole country? If there is some legitimate grievance, the line should be diverted to some other place. This line must be completed within a short time. This is an important line. It is also on the border with Pakistan. Thousands of persons will make use of this route; now they come by bus service or through ports or other routes. So this line must be completed as soon as possible.

Shri Warior: I wish to speak only on Demand No. 16. It is stated in the explanatory note:

> "A reduction of Rs. 1·69 crores under Investment in Road Services is due to the schemes not having materialised to the extent anticipated earlier".

I wish to deal with only this point. The Railway Minister had been kind enough to mention in his budget speech that traffic on the railways was decreasing owing to the unhealthy competition from the roads. Here also we see that sufficient discouragement is given to road transport by way of a reduction of Rs. 1·69 crores in investment.

To my knowledge, two of the State Governments have not opted to take the advice of the Railway Ministry to form their own road transport corporations. The difficulty in forming corporations is patent. As far as I know of the Kerala Government, the State Government is averse to this suggestion because there are so many other impediments in the way. Apart from that, the State Government derives a good revenue which it will lose, and to regain which will have to tax the people. So the revenue coming as profit from road transport is now adjusted to the revenue account. They do not want to forgo that revenue. But for that they have to suffer something else. The extension programme is to be shelved now because there are not sufficient funds forthcoming for road transport either from the Ministry of Transport or from the Ministry of Railways. Happily and luckily, the Railway Ministry has got sufficient funds. Road transport has become an imperative necessity not because people have any aversion to the railways but because the efficiency of the Railway Administration has come down to such an extent as to divert people's attention from railways. The original estimated amount for compensation for goods lost or damaged has now gone up by Rs. 14 lakhs odd—Rs. 78·69 lakhs increased provision is found necessary for compensation for goods lost, damaged etc. This shows that owing to pilferage, mismanagement and inefficiency in transport on railways, road transport is taking advantage of the cream of the freight and passenger traffic from the railways. For example, if there is a speed of, say, 50 miles in 24 hours in railways whereas road transport will cover 150 miles in the same time, that itself makes the transport of parcels and so on from one place to another through road transport profitable.

Shri C. K. Nair (Outer Delhi): 50 miles in 24 hours?

Shri Kodiyan: It may be even less.

Shri Warior: If properly calculated, it may be even less. I am only referring to it approximately. Because of efficiency in running, security of goods transported in road transport and the inordinate delays that occur in the goods sheds and parcels offices of the railways, people resort to road transport as against the railways. But should the Railway Ministry grudge giving some aid for road transport on that score? I do not think they should do so. If the Railway Ministry makes up for its deficiencies in administration, in the speed of trains and so on and sees that there is a healthy competition, as in all other sectors, between road transport and railway transport which are both essential wings and vital lines for transport of goods and passengers, nobody will take to road transport just for the sake of it because road transport also has its own difficulties; the freights are much higher and road transport cannot cope with the increasing traffic that we have now-a-days.

So I appeal to the Ministry that considering all these relevant facts, the policy in connection with giving aid to, or investing money in, road transport must be revised and road transport must also be given some assistance which will in the long run, react for the better administration of the railways also.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Giving assistance to road traffic to compete with the railways?

Shri Warior: Healthy competition is always good. It is not destructive competition that we are encouraging. It is healthy competition, because in our developing economy, passenger and goods traffic is increasing day by day. We must encourage it and then, if necessary, we can co-ordinate also.

For the States, there is another impediment in the way of having a corporation. The income-tax goes to the Central Government. After deducting income-tax only, the cor-

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poration gets something. The railways will insist upon their share in the equity capital. With that gone to the railways, what is left to the poor State? Our revenues have one by one been taken by the Central Government. So the States must be guaranteed informally at least by the Central Government of some revenues for developmental activities. Now they are squeezed one way or the other; if such a coercive policy is adopted by the Central Government, there is no hope for State Governments.

At the same time, I do not want that railways should suffer for the sake of road transport. The Railways are not suffering on account of road competition; they are suffering on account of inefficiency of administration, pilferage, inordinate delays and so on.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We are suffering because the cream is going somewhere else.

Shri Warior: The cream is going; the fat underneath will also go if the railways carry on like that.

13.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

If reform is not effected in the entire structure of the administration of the railways and if there is no co-ordination of road and rail transport evolved by the Ministry, not only the cream but everything will go *phut*.

So I appeal to the Minister to follow the policy I have suggested. Let the policy be simplified. Let there be co-ordination of road and rail transport. Let road transport be also encouraged, whether they come into a corporation or not—that may be left to the States concerned. Then there is some possibility of extending road transport which will be an additional help in moving freight and passenger traffic.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other day I spoke mainly on the speed of our trains and I also drew the attention of the House as to how our speed compares with the speed of trains in countries like America. Whereas it is 80 to 100 miles there, it is hardly between 20 to 30 miles here. Probably, we are not going to reach that condition now.

But, today, I wish to say a few words about trains which affect my constituency. I have a railway line of only 4 or 5 miles in my constituency and it would look as if it is a very small point—why so much importance is being given to it. But, I may submit that though it is only a distance of 4 or 5 miles, it is of the utmost importance for two districts.

An Hon. Member: Is there a railway station also?

Shri Achar: We have got a railway line of 4 or 5 miles and also a railway station. Certainly, when there is a railway line there must be a station. I am only pointing this out that it is of great importance to two districts—both South Kanara and Coorg, a district which has no railway connection. They have to travel about 80 miles to reach this railway station of Mangalore.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is a very pleasant drive.

Shri Achar: That drive is only by motor or other transport which is competing with the railways. The point I am referring to is this.

There is a train from Mangalore to Madras, the Madras—Mangalore Mail. Formerly, that train used to take about 21 to 22 hours. Now, it takes about 24 hours. I do not mind three hours. The point is this. Formerly,

the train used to reach Mangalore from Madras at 4 P.M. with the result that the post, the papers and all parcels, whatever they may be, could reach the end of the district or even Mercara, which is about 80 miles away, by buses. The post, letters and everything used to reach all parts of the district the same day. Now, the train arrives at Mangalore at 6·15 P.M. with the result that there is no bus service afterwards. Even in Mangalore, if the train is a little late, the letters are not delivered the same day so that we could not reply the next day by the train which leaves Mangalore.

They say there are engineering troubles. All the same I was I would like to make this request. I would very much wish that the train reaches Mangalore by 4 o'clock. If the speed could be increased, it is most welcome; if that is not possible, I would make this request that at least it should leave Madras and Bangalore a little earlier. Now, it is leaving Madras at 7.15 and Bangalore also at about the same time. The departure from Bangalore is also an important fact because Bangalore is our capital now. So, I would request that if it is not possible to increase the speed, at least the trains should leave Madras and Bangalore earlier so that they may reach Mangalore at 4 P.M.

I have to make another request to the Railway Minister. As I said, there is a mail train from Mangalore to Madras and to reach Bangalore, our headquarters of the Mysore State, we have to change at Jalarpet at about midnight and reach Bangalore early morning—that is after about 24 hours. Formerly, there was one bogie of first, second and third class from Mangalore to Bangalore. Now, that is not there, so that we cannot be sure of any berth in the train from Madras to Bangalore. The passenger has to change at Jalarpet with the result that at midnight he will be left there without any convenience and without being sure of getting the Madras-Bangalore mail.

An Hon. Member: Is it very cold there?

Shri Achar: Cold or whatever it be nobody would like to be left in the lurch at midnight in the railway station. Certainly, it is not as cold as Delhi. But my point is this. Conditions are going worse in view of the fact that people from South Kanara and Mercara have to catch this train to reach Bangalore, our headquarters. I would make this request that, as was done formerly, at least one bogie containing first and second class is reserved so that it can be attached to the Madras-Bangalore Mail and passengers coming from South Kanara can travel without this inconvenience of being left in the lurch at Jalarpet.

One small thing which I will mention about speed.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Perhaps, hon. Members who could not get a chance during general discussion are availing themselves of this opportunity.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir, this seems to be a general discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It apears as if this were only a continuance of the General Discussion. We are now having before us.....

Shri Achar: Supplementary Demands, of course, Sir.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: He is supplementing the Central Discussion.

Shri Achar: But, I would submit that the efficiency of the trains would certainly come under this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it an honest mistake or only an assumed one? The hon. Member should not conclude.

Shri Achar: I would say it is only an honest mistake. Apart from that I would submit.....

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): If it is an honest mistake why does he persist in it?

Shri Achar: The other point I would like to mention is about the goods station at Mangalore.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the Railway Minister asking for a supplementary grant for that? (*Interruptions*). The hon. Member should conclude now.

Shri Achar: I am only mentioning this fact that the goods station is in a very bad condition. Considerable timber is being entrained there and the approach roads, especially, are in a very bad condition. During heavy monsoon, both man and beast find it very difficult to reach the bogie. Of course, the station has been enlarged a little now; but these roads have not been attended to. I would request the Ministry to attend to this matter because it is of considerable importance and there is considerable trade there.

Finally, I would say a word about the commercial clerks. They have been submitting memorandum after memorandum. Their grievances should be very sympathetically considered.

I would give one instance. I happened to see the booking office at New Delhi. There are a large number of fans; but, they are arranged in such a manner that during summer when the fans run, the breeze never reaches the persons who are working there. I am told that this has been represented several times. If they are properly put up, the staff will get the benefit of these fans. As it is, they are of absolutely no use; only electrical energy is wasted and nobody benefits by it. I will request the hon. Railway Minister to see that the subordinate officials do attend to this matter.

Shri Sonavane (Sholapur-Reserved-Sch. Castes): Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate our Railway Ministry for having done so many good things and also providing travelling space for third class passengers by abolishing ice vendors compartments. I would not narrate them all.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no occasion also. The hon. Members should realise the difficulty of the hon. Minister also as he will have to go into all those questions again. Now, it has a limited scope.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: They have also their supplementary demands!

Shri Sonavane: They were only introductory remarks. I would come to the main points. I would place some of the points regarding my constituency's requirements. The first is that a foot-overbridge should be constructed joining the two stations of Sholapur, one of the metre gauge and the other broad-gauge.....

श्री जगजीवन राम : क्या यह इस डिमांड मे एराइज करता है ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब पूछते हैं कि क्या यह इस डिमांड से एतराइज करता है । मुझे तो जवाब नहीं आता । आप ही दे दीजिये ।

Shri Sonavane: These are the demands in general. At least one of these fourteen Demands—the Railway Board—is before the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is before us but the demand may be in respect of certain additional posts that might have been created. The scope of the discussion would be: why was it necessary, why was it not brought in the beginning, was it such that it had to be created afterwards? These are some of the things that can be discussed and not the general question of the Railway Board or its doings.

They had already been discussed and the scope is now very limited. I have already made a request to those hon. Members who have had no chance to send in memoranda..... (*Interruptions.*)

Shri Sonavane: I had no opportunity to put my views at the time of the general discussion and therefore, I am taking this opportunity to place these grievances of my constituency.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the reader who reads the debate afterwards would certainly make a remark that the hon. Member had utilised this opportunity to serve his constituency but the Chair was negligent.

Shri Sonavane: The reply to my question regarding the provision of the overbridge has been that the State Government refuses to bear the charges and the matter is being examined further. I do not know what charges have been refused by the State Government. This demand has been there for the last three or four years. There have been several fatal accidents on that road and so it was demanded. I feel that the Railway Ministry should take up this question with the Bombay Government and see that the travelling public suffer no more.

I want to point out the benefit of the conversion of the narrow gauge line into a broad-gauge line between Kurduwadi and Miraj. I have been told on 19th February, 1959 that certain reports are expected to be received shortly. I feel that this line is very profitable because the Pandarpur fairs are held and the heavy rush of passengers will be there taking recourse to this line. It so happens that even wagons are converted for carrying these third class passengers to Pandarpur. A decision to convert this line has been taken and I hope that the Railway Ministry will expedite this conversion and help in carrying of these passengers in proper compartments and not wagons.

The third point which I would stress is about the extension of electrification to one of the sections on the Central Railway from Poona to Sholapur in view of the availability of electric power from Koyna project... (*Shri Jagjivan Ram*: When?)....in 1961 or '62. As electric trains are running from Bombay to Poona if this work is taken up, I think there would be a lot of savings on coal. There is also a heavy traffic on this line because this line goes up to Madras and this would facilitate the passengers travelling from Bombay to Madras and to other places.

I would place certain other points regarding the recruitment of Scheduled Castes in the railway service. When the Ministry appointed some special officers for recruiting third and fourth class employees, we hoped something would be done. But though the employees have been selected, they have not been absorbed in the railway services on account of the economy drive. If this economy drive is to apply in the case of recruitment, many vacancies could not be filled up. I hope the Railway Ministry will consider these points and that the question of economy would not come in the way of recruitment of the candidates of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Then, Sir, there is another feature with regard to the recruitment of Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It looks very strange that when the Minister comes up with Supplementary Demands for Grants, hon. Members instead of asking for reduction in that are asking for more to be spent on certain other aspects. It is not that they have any objection to this much being granted, but they ask that more should be spent.

Shri Sonavane: The reserved vacancies are there and if they are filled up no additional grant would be required. The posts of special officers have already been created, and if

[Shri Sonavane]

vacancies are filled up it will not result in any further Supplementary Demands being brought up here. That is why I wanted to make out this point at this stage.

Now, there are the posts of watermen. Our Railway Minister said that Scheduled Caste and Muslim candidates are to be appointed to these posts in an increasing scale. That is very good. But I would also make a suggestion that in the departmental catering establishments where there are so many posts of servers, if Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—particularly Scheduled Castes —candidates are employed, then the cause of removal of untouchability would also be served. With that end in view, Sir, I suggest that Scheduled Castes candidates may be taken in these catering establishments in an increasing measure.

The question of thefts in railway carriages is also there. What I find is that the ticket collectors, particularly those working on the suburban railways, do not generally work very efficiently. They hardly collect a few tickets from those passengers who leave the station. It is not known whether the number of tickets sold for a particular station is collected by these ticket collectors who are posted at the gates. Whenever I have used these local trains, I have found that these ticket collectors hardly make any effort to collect the tickets from passengers. They simply stand at the gates, and do not demand tickets from the passengers who go out. Therefore, I would suggest that they should be asked to collect all the tickets or at least a majority of tickets issued for a particular station. If this is done, I think the ticketless travel would also diminish.

With these words, Sir, I congratulate the Ministry and hope that my suggestions will be looked into.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have before us Supplementary Demands to the tune of Rs. 42,92,00,000 and very satisfactory explanations have been given by the Railway Ministry for coming forward with all these Demands. But, Sir, if you just examine these Demands a little thoroughly you will find that for various Demands there is not much of justification.

Now, to start with, we have the first Demand—Railway Board—Rs. 2,62,000. As I looked into the explanation I found a very satisfactory explanation, that they wanted to appoint one Under Secretary as Welfare Officer and certain temporary staff for certain welfare schemes and other matters. On the face of it, I say, it looks to be quite justified, *prima facie* it is perfectly all right. But I say it is not justified because, Sir, you will remember that only yesterday when I pointed out that the Railway Board has unnecessarily expanded and there are too many officers and too many of the ministerial staff there the Railway Minister was good enough to respond quickly and say that a process in the reverse direction has already started. But from these Supplementary Demands I confirm that the process in that direction has not started. If it had been so, the Raiway Board would have been told to ask one of their officers of the rank of Under Secretary to do the job of a Welfare Officer. When they have swollen the number of ministerial staff from 458 to over a thousand, they should have been able to find some establishment to look after this work. Therefore, definitely it is obvious that that process has not started.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That process started after this has been done!

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I cannot understand when this process started, perhaps the hon. Minister

will give some indication of it. The very fact that just for one Under Secretary they had to ask for these additional Grants shows that they had a very rigid attitude about the increase in their staff, and they wanted to take every little opportunity to increase their staff. They did not even hestitate to come here with a Supplementary Demand just for one officer. They could not adjust even to that extent. That shows the mental attitude, and I do not know how this mental attitude fits in with the observation made by the hon. Minister. That is how I read it. As I said, the explanations are very satisfactory and they are there.

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Again, a large sum is going to be spent on surveys. New additional surveys have been taken on. If I have a correct recollection, I think the hon. Minister of Railways himself observed that we have had so many surveys and we have so little work to execute that it would be absolutely futile to take up any more fresh surveys. We have got so many additional surveys already taken up, and nothing is being done. The programme for implementation is exceedingly poor. It is not going to match with the surveys undertaken. Therefore, I hope the Railway Minister will give us an assurance that these surveys were very necessary, that he has revised his attitude and he is possibly thinking of coming forward with something much more optimistic on the side of constructing fresh lines and new lines.

If that sort of outlook is there, we would not mind. In spite of my fervent appeal for the development of roads, we know that there is tremendous scope for development of railways. Railways have to lift a particular pattern of freight. It cannot be said that there is no room for expansion in railways. But what we say is that unnecessary surveys just to satisfy this or that should not be taken up, and only those surveys which are very necessary and which conform to our future programme of execution should be taken up.

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Then, I would also like, in a way, to congratulate the hon. Minister for the very successful programme for the purchase of those raw materials the lack of which has hampered the progress and the programme of projects on the Railways. Quite a large amount of money has been asked for because these stores are coming from outside the country and because certain surplus stores were prepared in the workshops here. So far as that goes, it is perfectly all right. We all welcome it if it is only that type of material which is given and which is to be covered by the supplementary demands. But you will remember that yesterday we were just asking the question about metre-gauge wagons and we found that we are now getting surplus in the matter of metre-gauge wagons. There is no indication of any fuller picture given here, to show whether the raw material is kept in view in making these purchases of these stores and whether the rules and regulations regarding the percentage of stores to be kept have been fully observed or not. We do not know all that. Perhaps, because a certain programme has been let loose and now that they find that so much of stores have been purchased, they come here and ask for the supplementary grants. I thought that they must have made provision in their original budget to cover the necessary material which would be required to cover the programme which was to be executed during the year. I think it would be only reasonable to presume that they had provided for their requirements.

Now that they have come in for a huge amount, asking for these stores to be covered by the supplementary demands, I think a fuller explanation is necessary. It is not enough if it is said that so much is the production and that we are providing for Rs. 2

[Shri Harish Chandra Mathur]

crores and so much has to be produced in our workshop and another sum of Rs. 2 crores is required, and so on. We wish that a clearer picture was given to us.

The next point which I wish again to make out—and which is fully covered under Demand 16 and was in a manner referred to by my hon. friend over there—is that a sum of Rs. 161 lakhs had to be diverted from the development of road fund. I think it is not very fair. There is a genuine apprehension in the minds of the people that the railway administration is sitting like a dead weight over the development of road transport. That sort of apprehension is more than justified by the various indications which we get. The hon. Deputy Minister of Railways is all the time talking about the cream of the railways being taken away by the road transport. I think he should be satisfied with all the cream that the railways already had, with the big, lion's share which the railways already enjoyed. They are in a very good health, I am sure, and I do not think they should get worried about a little more cream going to the growing.....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: To persons like Shri Mathur to put on a little more flesh!

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I might assure the Railway Minister that if I have any personal interest, it is only in the railways and not in the road transport.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am talking of the cream!

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I would very much like the cream to be preserved for the railways, but if I was talking in the sense of having a personal interest, I wish that the growing baby gets some cream. Let it have some cream. But then where is the road transport here? Let us compare the figures and know where road transport in this country stands. Where are the roads? I think a big cry has been raised about roads and road transport, and the railways of course will have to bale out in the course of the next 30 or 40 years. There is the least doubt about it. Road transport will come up. But the railways, I know, not unnecessarily give this impression and that sort of impression is very much justified.

I shall say why the Railway Minister was good enough to assure us that he had no hand in this new decision. Already, just now, a friend of mine was showing to me what happens at present. It is perfectly relevant to this demand and it shows why the amounts have not been channelled. What has happened is, for the development of road transport, they have just planned that there should be corporations and only when they have certain corporations that central aid would be given and otherwise, it would be denied. Central aid cannot be given, it is said, unless and until the States form their corporations. The States are not prepared to form corporations, and that is for various reasons which I need not go into now. But on these corporations which are formed, the railways are fully represented. Even at the present moment the railways are represented on all these State Transport Authorities. My friend was just showing me a letter which has been written by a railway representative on a Road Transport Authority which I think is absolutely indefensible and obstinate. That letter is written to the President or the Secretary concerned, in the P.W.D., and says that the 32 permits should not be given. He wrote it like that straightaway as if he is the sole dictator or authority. A copy of that letter was also sent to the person concerned. It was as though he was the final authority

who could decide the matter, when the Road Transport Authority was functioning.

Shri Oza (Zalawad): May I make the position clear? He has referred to what I have shown to him. Let us be specific about it. The General Manager of the Western Railway has written to the Regional Transport Authority that he could not issue permits to those who had applied for registration and permits of public carriers. A copy of it has been endorsed to the applicant, saying that his application would be rejected.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: That is exactly what I am saying.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are a few minutes left to the Minister. The hon. Member should conclude.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I shall finish in just two minutes or in one minute if you like. I do not see what justification is there for all the money for road transport to be channelled through the railways. That is absolutely unfair. It is as if the railways are the guardian angels of road transport.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Better co-ordination.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If this is co-ordination, then I am sure very shortly, the demand will be coming that the Railway Board should be similarly controlled by those people who are managing the road transport. This is a very strange idea about co-ordination. Co-ordination from the railway side means complete domination by the railways and dictation by the railways. This has been so all the time, and I may quote just once instance. If this is co-ordination, then, God help this co-ordination. Now, where do they get the funds from? From the allotments made by the Planning Commission and from the general revenues. These are to be channelled through the railways so that the railways could sit over the development of road transport and be, as I said earlier, like a dead weight. About a sum of Rs. 165 lakhs has not been utilized for the development of road transport and it has been diverted somewhere else, though the purpose for which it was meant has not been served.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am glad that all the speeches on the supplementary demands for grants are mostly to make suggestions, because we have given elaborate explanatory notes about the supplementary demands for grants and so every hon. Member could see the justification for the demands. I am glad that certain suggestions have been made and I shall say a few words on them.

Of course, certain Members have presented their own supplementary demands which were not quite germane to the supplementary demands presented by me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister is taking advantage of them.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not. What I was going to say is that I will consider those demands also. I shall start with the last point raised by my friend Shri Harish Chandra Mathur and Shri Wodeyar. I will not go into the question of who is taking the cream and who is not taking the cream. Of course, I do not understand the argument that the railways are sitting as a dead weight on the development of road transport. I genuinely feel that there is so much scope for the development of all types of transport systems in the country. There is enormous scope for the development of road transport. But certainly the railways may feel that the areas where they have done poineering work and have developed the traffic, it should be left to them. If the development of road transport means only going to the areas where means of transport already exist, I

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

feel it does not amount to development of road transport.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This is a monopolistic tendency.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not a monopolistic tendency in a country where there is much scope. There are many areas where there is a genuine case and demand for the development of transport—railways or road. There are vast areas where no means of transport exist, if the railways are not in a position to do that and if the road transport can open those areas, it will be to the advantage of this country.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: You want to take the cream and leave bones to road transport.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I leave them the cream, the curd and everything to them.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): After the cream, there will be only skimmed milk.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is not the main consideration. The point has been raised as to why this money has not been utilised. The money has not been utilised because the railways are called upon to contribute to the capital of the Road Transport Corporation. Several Governments have not agreed for reasons best known to them. I do not want to enter into those questions. Several Governments have formed Corporations and there we have contributed to the capital of the corporations.

What would be the pattern of State transport is to be decided by the Ministry primarily responsible for that, *viz.*, the Transport Ministry. Some friends have held that when transport and railways were together under one Ministry, perhaps more importance was given to the railways and road transport could not develop Now road transport is the responsibility of the Transport Ministry and having taken all factors into consideration, they have decided that State transport should be run on the basis of corporations. The railways are to contribute to the share capital of the corporations. We are doing that. If the Transport Ministry decides that even where road transport is run departmentally and railways are to contribute to the capital, I do not think the railways will resitate to do that, because we feel that road transport should develop.

One thing perhaps has not been appreciated. Most of the road transport run by State Governments is meant only for passenger service; they are not carrying goods traffic, and even if they do, it is to a very limited extend.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Except in specified areas, the State Governments are committed only to carrying passenger traffic.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is what I am saying. I may assure the House that I am not at all perturbed if all the passenger traffic in those areas is taken up by the road transport, because so long as it is in the States' hands, many factors which lead to some unsatisfactory competition do not exist. I need not elaborate on it; many Members will understand what I mean. So, whether they are corporations or whether they are run departmentally, railways will have no objection in helping State Governments if the Ministry primarily responsible for that decides what should be the pattern of road transport. I have only that much to say on this point.

Shri Mathur raised the question about economy measures. When I said the process has started, I meant it. Only last month or so, the posts of three deputy directors have been reduced in the Railway Board and the question of further reduction is being examined. But one should not

forget that when we have an expanding economy, we may have to reduce the strength in certain sectors and increase the strength of the staff in certain other sectors. My friend, Shri Vittal Rao, enquired about the functions of the welfare officer. I told him at that time that this welfare officer is attached to the Ministry entirely to look after the welfare of the secretariat staff. As the House is aware, we have taken a decision that in every sizeable Ministry, there should be one whole-time officer for the welfare of the secretariat staff. But I have been personally feeling that there is a case for co-ordinating the activities of the welfare officers on the various railways. At present, the welfare activities are restricted to certain items, but I want to extend that and it may be necessary to create a post in the Railway Board, something like a welfare Adviser, who will co-ordinate the activities of the welfare staff on the various railways and also give a new turn to the welfare activities such as visit to the workers' colonies, encouraging certain arts and handicrafts among the families of the staff, etc. So, for this purpose it may be necessary to increase the staff on the railways. That is why I said that on the one hand the process of reducing the staff has started and on the other, it may be necessary in certain cases to add one or two officers for some specific purpose.

About surveys, what I have said is quite correct in the sense that I do not want to undertake any survey where I am not sure that after the survey is over, the construction work will start. I am not going to undertake any survey work in order to give certain temporary satisfaction to certain people. But we will have to undertake surveys where we have to construct the lines. In the case of all the surveys mentioned in the supplementary demands, we have to construct railway lines for one consideration or other.

About stores, in the railways we have this accounting system. That also is at times responsible for presenting inflated figures to the House and also sometimes there is double voting. Our actual budget as passed yesterday is nearly Rs. 452 crores and odd, but the amount voted, as it has appeared in the papers is Rs. 1,016 crores. About the stores, I may assure the House that I have taken particular care to see that stores which are not required are not purchased. I have put a special officer on this duty to see that the stores balances of the railways are reduced. As a matter of fact, there also the process has started and we are now drawing more stores than we were purchasing, and at some places we have to show a minus instead of a plus. I may assure the House, without going into details, that we are taking particular care to see that stores which are not required in the foreseeable future are not purchased and money is not locked up.

About Igatpuri-Bhusawal, whenever electrification is done, power is required. The difficulty about this line has been shortage of power. For one end, of course, we are thinking of utilising the power from Chola power house. But for the other end, power from the Akola power house that is to be set up by the Bombay Government will be required. But I am told that there is no chance of power being made available from that power house till the end of the second Plan. So, we are co-ordinating our plan on the Igatpuri-Bhusawal section in such a way....

Shri Naushir Bharucha: You are slowing down the tempo of power development.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am quite frank; we are slowing down our programme, because there is no use completing all the work there unless electricity is available. So, we have slightly slowed down our work. All the civil engineering works will be

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

completed and as soon as the possibility of availability of power is assured we will finish the electrification and introduce it. The real difficulty is the non-availability of the requisite quantity of power.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: At chola you are going to have 18 megawatt power house. Why can't you have 60 megawatt power house especially when large size power stations are more economical?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If the railway undertakes to start its own power house, that will be another difficulty. The capital outlay, the foreign exchange component required for that, all the difficulties will be there.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: 1 60 megawatt power house will cost Rs. 6 crores.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It also means something.

Regarding surveys, as I have said, for the commitments made previously the surveys will be completed. I am not ordering any new survey for any area where I am not sure that the construction work will be taken up very soon. That is my policy.

About the concession in freight for increasing our exports to earn foreign exchange, as a matter of fact, a committee is constantly reviewing this question. I think the Railway Ministry is not competent to judge which are the commodities which require freight concession in order to promote export and earn more foreign exchange. It is the Commerce and Industry Ministry which is competent to judge this and their officers and our officers are constantly in touch to review which are the commodities where some concession is necessary and what should be the quantum of the concession which should be given. We are constantly reviewing that.

About the Kandwa-Hingoli line, my friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao knows how difficult is the terrain. The gradient is also known to him. There have been some other difficulties, and the number of bridges is tremendous. There were difficulties about girders also, though we have been able to surmount that difficulty. At that stage there was difficulty about contractors too. So, the work has been delayed to some extent. But we are trying to expedite it.

With all my sympathy for the labour. I do not know whether we will ever reach the stage where we can assure the House that we will absorb all the casual labourers that we employ on the railways. That will not be possible. We make an earnest effort to absorb as many as we can, but it will not be possible to absorb everyone. If my friend Shri Vittal Rao, is constructing a house of his own, I wonder if he will maintain all the labour at his cost after the completion of the work. If he develops the argument that we should absorb all the labour, I do not think it will be possible in any industry anywhere. Casual labour will continue to remain.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Your process is a continuous process whereas the construction of a house is not a continuous process.

Dr. Krishnaswami (Chingleput): Further, yours is in the public sector.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, and that will be in the private sector.

About fuel, the Southern Railways have to pay more freight on account of transportation of coal from Bengal-Bihar through coastal shipping. Now that the wagon position has improved, we have decided that the coal should be transported by the railways. Also, after the development of the Central India collieries it will perhaps be advantageous to transport coal from

there to South instead from Bengal or Bihar.

Uniform Committee Report is being considered by the Railway Board. Well, I must admit that I have not devoted any time for it. Now I am going to personally look into it and will expedite it.

In the railway schools we are following the same pattern as is followed by the State Governments concerned in respect of charging fees from students. Regarding the question raised by Shri Vittal Rao, as he is aware, we have referred the matter to the State Government. If he expedites the reply from the State Government, it will help us in taking a decision in the matter.

Then, I was personally very anxious about the second shift in Perambur and for the furnishing unit. As my friend is perhaps aware, I had ordered this furnishing unit in a temporary shed. Now I may inform the House that it has been cleared from the Planning Commission and the foreign exchange has also been found. So, the works are going to be undertaken very soon.

As I have said, many suggestions have been made and I will have all of them examined.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: As it is not yet 2.30, Members can take some more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Supplementary Demands of the Ministry are sure to be accepted. But the Supplementary Demands of the Members have no likelihood of being accepted.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I want to put a question. Regarding the overcapitalisation of Rs. 100 crores, both the Railway Enquiry Committee and the Railway Convention Committee have recommended that some formula should be evolved to write off that amount. Now we are in 1959 when we have to appoint another Convention Committee. The interest is inflated because of this.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: At this stage, I will not like to go into the detail of that question, because a second Convention Committee is to come. But I am grateful to my friend for that. It is constantly under our consideration, because that will be to the advantage of the railways.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cut motion Nos. 3, 14, 15, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18 are the ones that have been moved. I shall now put all those cut motions to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demand Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 17, and 19."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.28 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the

Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th March, 1959."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th March, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Bills to be introduced.

Shri Hem Raj. Absent.

Shri Ram Shankar Lal. .. Absent.

Shri Arjun Singh Bahaduria.

14.30 hrs.

HYDROGENATION OF OILS (OFFENCES) BILL*

श्री अर्जुनसिंह भदौरिया (इटावा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि सहकारी समितियों सम्बन्धी विधान को समेकित करने तथा उस में संशोधन करने वाले एक बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाए ।

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I have a point of order in regard to this. As you know, it is not the practice of the Government...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I put it first?

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of Hydrogenation of Oils in India and for matters connected therewith."

Shri A. K. Sen: That is not the one. The hon. Member has moved for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Co-operative Societies. He did not move for leave to introduce the Hydrogenation of of Oil Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not moving for leave for that Bill?

Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria: I am moving for leave to introduce the second Bill too.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: First on the Order Paper is the Bill that I have mentioned and it has preference.

श्री अर्जुनसिंह भदौरिया : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि भारत में तेलों को जमाने पर रोक लगाने और तत्सम्बन्धी बातों की व्यवस्था करन क लिए एक बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाए ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of Hydrogenation of Oils in India and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria: I introduce the Bill.

14.32 hrs.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

श्री अर्जुनसिंह भदौरिया (इटावा): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि सहकारी समितियों सम्बन्धी विधान को समेकित करने तथा उस में संशोधन करने वाले एक बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाए ।

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 6th March, 1959.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Co-operative Societies."

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I raise a point of order.

If you will good enough to look to the Seventh Schedule, item 32, you will find that the law relating to co-operation and co-operative societies falls exclusively within the State jurisdiction. Previous to 1919, we had two Acts of the Central Legislature. After 1919 co-operation and co-operative societies became a transferred subject. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, it became a provincial subject and under the Constitution, it is a State subject. So, I do not know how the Parliament can really entertain this Bill at all.

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : माननीय कानून मंत्री महोदय ने यह राय जाहिर की है कि चूंकि यह विषय प्रान्तीय सरकारों का है, इसलिए इस विधेयक को स्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता है । इस संबंध में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोओप्रेटिव सोसाइटीस ऐक्ट, १९१२ है वह अभी तक भी इन-फोर्स है, वह अभी लागू है । ऐसी हालत में यह कैसे कहा जा सकता है कि कोई दूसरा संशोधन या कोई दूसरा नया बिल नहीं लाया जा सकता है ।

दूसरी बात जो मुझे कहनी है यह है कि मिनिस्ट्री आफ फूड एंड एग्रिकलचर ने गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की तरफ से कमेटी आन कोओप्रेटिव ला जो बनाई है और उसकी जो रिपोर्ट है, उसने भी इस बात को स्वीकार किया है, उसने भी माना है कि देश के अन्दर एक ऐसा कानून होना चाहिये जो सहकारिता आन्दोलन को आगे बढ़ा सके और ऐसे एक कानून की बहुत आवश्यकता है जिस का एक रूप हो और एक रूप किसी कानून को देना तभी सम्भव है जब कि केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई कानून बनाये या कोई नियमावली तैयार करे । लेकिन आज हम देख रहे हैं कि विभिन्न प्रान्तों के अन्दर विभिन्न रूपों में सहकारी समितियों के बारे में कानून हैं, बाई-लाज हैं और वे बिगड़ी हुई दशा में हैं और उन से सुधार की कोई सम्भावना नहीं है । इस वास्ते यह बात जरूरी समझी गई है कि एक ऐसा विधेयक पेश किया जाए, एक ऐसा कानून बनाया जाए जो कि सारे देश पर लागू हो सके ।

अभी माननीय मंत्री महोदय की तरफ से दलील पेश की गई है कि यह विषय प्रान्तीय सरकारों का है । लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के मातहत भी कुछ प्रदेश हैं, जैसे दिल्ली है, हिमाचल प्रदेश है जहां पर कि इस कानून को लागू किया जा सकता है । इस वास्ते मैं समझता हूं कि इस विधेयक का स्वीकार किया जाना बहुत आवश्यक है । मैं समझता हूं कि अगर यह प्रान्तीय सरकारों का सबजैक्ट है, तो साथ ही साथ केन्द्रीय सरकार का भी सबजैक्ट है ।

माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो दलील दी है वह एक ही बात से खत्म हो जाती है कि सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का जो कोओप्रेटिव सोसाइटीस ऐक्ट, १९१२ है वह अभी तक इन-फोर्स है और मैं कोई कारण नहीं देख पाता हूं कि इस बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति क्यों न दी जाए ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Law Minister anything to say about Union Territories?

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes, it may be applicable only to the Union Territories. Then, this Bill has to be changed. As it is, it cannot be introduced. It says that it extends to the whole of the State of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can argue that during the discussion or after the introduction of the Bill perhaps that amendment might be made.

Shri A. K. Sen: It is for you to give a ruling.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not giving a ruling.

Shri A. K. Sen: We are really here to assist the hon. Member. As hon. Members know, there is a National Development Council resolution which says that the law relating to cooperation and cooperative societies should be made simpler. That is a different matter. It may be that all. the States may have to legislate simultaneously after the agreement is arrived at amongst the States.

The reason as to why the Act of 1912 is still in operation is article 372 which continues all Acts in operation at the commencement of the Constitution even though some of them may fall within the jurisdiction either of the Central Legislature or of the State Legislatures, as the case may be. But that does not mean that it becomes a Central subject. It is true that only with regard to the Union Territories it is permissible for Paliament to legislate. But I presume that it is not the intention of the hon. Mover to confine his Bill only to the Union Territories. In fact, the objects proclaim otherwise.

It is a question of competence, whether as it is you can introduce it here. Unless you amend it, I think you cannot even give leave for introduction of this Bill, because as it is, it is beyond the competence of the Parliament. That is the point. If the hon. Member wants to bring a Bill which is applicable only to Union Territories, certainly he can do so. That will be a different Bill altogether.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Co-operative Societies."

The motion was negatived.

14.38 hrs.

BANKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendergarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

BANK OF PATIALA MERGER BILL*

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendergarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to merge the Bank of Patiala with the State Bank of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there not a Bill already? Perhaps there is one.

An Hon. Member: There is a great difference.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to merge the Bank of Patiala with the State Bank of India."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 6th March, 1959.

14.39 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the motion moved by Shri Radha Raman on the 20th February, 1959 that the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be taken into consideration.

Out of 1½ hours allotted for the discussion of the Bill, 1 minute was taken up on the 20th February, 1959 and 1 hour and 29 minutes are now available.

Shri Radha Raman may now continue his speech.

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while moving for consideration my Bill in this House, the other day I said that it was a very simple and harmless Bill which seeks to amend sections 56 and 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, by adding a few extra provisions in it. You will agree that we have learnt many things by our past experience and have already made several amendments in this principal Act in order to make it more helpful and effective. Our main object in accepting these amendments had been to hold our elections to different legislatures as democratically and economically as possible

In a vast country like our, it is rather difficult to plant democratic traditions in every sphere in all respects all of a sudden, or within a very short time. These traditions are gradually evolved, and allowed to grow. Therefore, I believe it will take time before we achieve that high standard that we would like to establish in this country. It is with this end in view that I have been prompted to place this small Bill before the House for the consideration of the hon. Members and the Government.

The principal Act in section 56 deals with fixing time for polls. My amendment seeks that there should be a provision in that and it should be a legal provision that the day so fixed for poll in a constituency shall be declared a holiday. My purpose in bringing this amendment is this. Though in practice the Election Commission has exercised its own power to have the elections held on holidays or on days which were declared as holidays, there is no legal provision, and there has been a lot of difficulty sometimes when the Election Commission fixed a day which was not a public holiday. Particularly, in the private firms and big industrial houses, there has been always a lot of quarrel between the management and the workers to find time to go to the polls and exercise the franchise which has, after a hard struggle, been obtained, and which is required to be exercised in order to have the principle of democracy fully established. I therefore with that this provision be made in section 56. And a proviso may further be added to the effect that the day so fixed for poll in a constituency shall be declared a holiday.

Each time there is a general election, thousands of people have to be recruited in oder to man the mahinery that is required for elections, and it is not only on the side of the Government or the Election Commission which holds the election that so many thousands of people are required; even the persons who contest or the parties who set up candidates have to recruit a very large number of people as election agents and the like, and it becomes very difficult, if the day fixed is not declared a public holiday, to make those people come and man the machinery, or to provide the machinery that is required either by the Government or by the contestants. In fact, in the case of the

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Government, it is just possible that any person who is called on duty is considered to be on duty and he does not suffer, but in the case of others it becomes absolutely necessary that there should be some kind of provision in the Act so that everybody who is interested—and in fact, every man who is an adult and has acquired the age of 21 is interested in the election—may have the spare time or be able to provide the machinery or the cadre that is required either by the contesting party or by the Government. I therefore feel that this is a provision which is very appropriate, and there should be no difficulty in the Government accepting such a provision to be included in section 56, which is to help the nation to exercise its franchise as vastly and as widely as it desires or as is required.

I need not say much on this subject because the convention has been practically established and generally elections have been held either on a Sunday or other public holidays. Since this practice is already being observed, there should be no difficulty in having a legal provision to facilitate the work of the Election for the Government as well as the parties concerned.

Then I come to the second part of my Bill, the two amendments. They relate to section 123 which deals with corrupt practices and electoral offences. You will notice that corrupt practices have been defined quite elaborately; we have tried to make it as comprehensive as possible and included among the practices such practices which actually were either non-economic or were leading to bad results or leading to some kind of disturbance or difficulties. I am only suggesting two more additions to be made, and I have reasons to do so.

Firstly, I have seen from personal experience that each time election is held, a lot of money is spent by the contesting parties or by the contestants in having long and broad stencils cut and pasting them, thus spoiling private and Government walls and so many other buildings and structures that fall within the constituency. They are sometimes in bad colours, or sometimes, in black colour, and they continue to exist there for very many years. I think this is a very unclean habit.

In the first general election I had to fall in line with other people, but I had some kind of a reaction, a very adverse reaction, to it, and I felt that it did not look nice, and it did not help at all the candidate who put up such stencils and since it is in black colour, it only spoiled the private walls and other walls in the streets and in the bazaars and made the face of the city ugly. So, I have suggested in my amending Bill that this should also be included in corrupt practices. It is for all parties and it is to be applied uniformly, and it should have no effect on the results of the election. I have seen it myself.

Last time when I was fighting the elections, there were many people who came to me and insisted that I must follow the line which other parties were following, and that these stencils should be made or cut or placed on the walls, but I resisted, and I resisted it to the end successfully I would say. And I can say that even today if you go to the bazaars and *galis* and lanes and by-lanes of Delhi City, you will find that the stencils which had then been plastered or engraved on the walls are still existing, and they look very ugly, and they do not at all add to the good standard or cleanliness of the town or of our habits. So, I am just suggesting in my amendment that this should be included among corrupt practices.

Then there is another small provision in the amending Bill, and that is this. We find that every time we fight the elections we have to spend a lot of money on very big banners and sometimes the bazars roads are too wide and we hang big banners 10 to 12 feet long. Sometimes, they are hung with a stone or with a bamboo stick on both sides; and sometimes, that stick falls down or that stone falls down, and sometimes, they hit the people. Apart from this, what I find is that these banners are removed overnight. Today, you fix them, but some of them are removed overnight; again you fix them, and again you will find that they are removed the next night. By the time the elections are over, so many of these things are removed; I have myself found that many of these have been taken away or have been robbed away. So, it involves a lot of money without getting much of advantage thereby. When I say that there will be a uniform practice, and every party will be following the same line, I do not see why a huge amount should be spent on them.

On the one side, we want that the elections must be economic, and there should be the least expenditure incurred, so that even a commoner or a person who does not possess money or on whom the party cannot spend much money can also stand for elections and participate in the elections; we also want that the elections should be made simple. So, I do not see any reason for not accepting the amendment that I have proposed. I do not think that if these things are removed, there will be any change or there will be any adverse effect on the results of the elections. On the contrary, it will save a lot of money to the contesting parties or that set up candidates for the elections.

I am, therefore, very keen that Government should take these three amendments into consideration. In support of this, I would also say that we have passed the Representation of the People Act in our country on the basis of the U.K. Act. I find that in that country also, there is a prohibitory order against banners etc. and there is legal sanction behind such prohibitory order. I shall just read out a relevant extract in that connection.

The Representation of the People Act, 1949, (U.K.), which is a consolidating measure, declares (i) expenditure for flags etc. and (ii) payments to voters for exhibiting bills and notices as illegal pratice. The statutory prohibition on the use of flags and banners etc. is contained in section 97 of the said Act which reads as follows:

> "97.' (1) No payment or contract for payment shall, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at an election, be made on account of bands of music, torches, flags or banners.
>
> (2) If any payment or contract for payment is made in contravention of this section, either before, during or after an election, the person making the payment and, if he knew that it was made contrary to law, any person being a party to the contract or receiving the payment shall be guilty of an illegal payment" . . . .

I have also more or less mentioned the same provision in my Bill, as is found in the U.K. law which we have adopted in our country, and the background of which we have been following not only in regard to election law but also in regard to other matters.

In those countries, the habits are quite different. And the standards of cleanliness and standards of fighting the elections also are also slightly different. As I have said, in no country in the world is the stencil system adopted, because it is an unclean thing; it costs money, and it does not in any way add to the success or failure of any candidate. All

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parties have to follow the same line, and there has to be a uniform practice, and it affects all equally. So, I would say that these amendments which are of a very minor nature should be taken into consideration; they only draw the attention of the people to something that seeks to improve the present Act and also minimise the expenditure that is incurred by every candidate that stands for election.

So, I feel that this amending Bill, which, as I said, is a very harmless one, and which seeks to make three amendments to be embodied in sections 56 and 123 of the Representation of the People Act, should be acceptable to Government. If this Bill is accepted, then we shall have a better practice prevailing in our country, and less expenditure will be incurred in the elections, and people who are of lesser means or who are of common means will also be enabled to take full advantage of the democratic institutions that we have set up in our country.

With these words, I commend my Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I have read the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to Shri Radha Raman's Bills. I do support the first amendment in regard to the holidays. We have been facing this difficulty in the last elections also. In the industrial areas of Kanpur, in the working class areas, that is, in the areas where the mills were working, less than 50 per cent, or I should say, 33-1/3 per cent of the workers only could cast their votes. So, I feel that the Government of India should accept this first amendment, or the Home Ministry should issue some orders by which the polling date should be declared as a holiday.

What happened actually during the corporation elections in Delhi? I remember that an adjournment motion was sought to be moved to that effect on that particular day, because it was feared that the ruling party or any party which had sufficient means would carry the voters with it by arranging trucks and buses even without caring for the corrupt practice or anything of that sort, and the poor candidate might suffer, because he would not be able to carry the voters in trucks or in any other conveyance. So, this is a matter which should receive the sympathetic consideration, not only of the Law Minister but of the entire Government of India. For, we are facing this trouble every time, especially in those areas which are dominated by the working class people. The absence of a holiday has been one of the reasons why in certain areas the percentage of polling was very much less than what was expected. Therefore, I support the first amendment suggested by Shri Radha Raman.

As for the second amendment, I do not know what has irritated or provoked my hon. friend to bring forward that amendment and thus make the list of corrupt practices as long one. He has stated that people do use stencils or festoons. I fully realise that the walls may be spoilt if stencils are used. And my hon. friend has cited the position in England and other countries and said that nowhere in the world is the stencil system in elections used. But I do not think anywhere in the world the percentage of illiteracy is so much. Here, a candidate has to popularise a particular symbol or the name of a candidate. So far as the ruling party is concerned, you will find that they do not give their symbols, but everywhere you will find that they give Shri Jawaharlal

Nehru's picture, a distorted and disfigured picture of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru even, because they want to catch votes in Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's name.

I was also one of the candidates, and to-day, I can say I was a successful candidate, for that is why I am here to-day. And what was the money spent by me? The hon. Member said that a huge amount was being spent on this stencilling business. I can tell you that I had only three stencils, because I fought the elections on a meagre amount, and two or three people were doing this on their own accord. I never spent money on this business; and these were not put on walls where it had been written 'Restricted' or any notice was there to the effect that anybody who did that was liable to be prosecuted. I admit that young boys sometimes do like this; but, nobody spoils a building deliberately. Can he show me any building in New Delhi which has been so spoiled. This is actually a wrong thing and it cannot be taken as a corrupt practice in any case.

I would have welcomed his Bill had he brought certain basic things—certain defects in this particular Act. Every provision of this Act is being smashed to pieces by the Supreme Court every day. If you read the judgments of the various Election Tribunals, if you read the judgments of the Supreme Court and High Courts you will find that this Act really requires to be amended in all respects and a comprehensive Bill has to be brought in in the larger interests of our nation and our democratic traditions, if we want to have elections.

So, I oppose this Bill and I would request my hon. friend not to press for this. If the ruling party feels that they need not do anything and if they feel that they have got Nehruji with them and they have also the ideology of Gandhiji, and as long as they are there, there is no need for propanganda and no need for festoons, no stencilling business and yet they will win, what will happen to the other candidates. They depend upon these festoons. If one festoon is properly displayed, it popularises that candidate and it is absolutely wrong to say that this festoon should not be used in the elections. My hon. friend is forgetting this thing. I have my own experience in my own constituency. He is after the stencilling business and he is after the festoons.

I will mention what happened in my constituency. A shameless thing happened. Our unfortunate sisters, the prostitutes, were taken in a procession and they were shouting *Congress ko harana khel nahin hai*. This should be avoided as a corrupt pratice. Casteism should be avoided. I would have really welcomed his Bill if he attacked caste sentiments which are generally roused by this party or that party. But, he has not touched the real point.....

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): I would like to know whether the hon. Member is accusing any party in general at a particular place by stating that processions were taken of prostitutes. I would like to point out that this is not befitting the dignity of the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I said, Sir, our unfortunate sisters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Some other hon. Member can say that they were shouting some other slogan.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am sorry I had to say this. With all the eloquence at my command, I do support the first amendment that there should be a holiday either by legislation or through special orders of the Home Ministry of the Government of India. But I do feel that the other amendments should be totally rejected. He wants these things to be included as corrupt practices. What is the corrupt practice in displaying properly a symbol popularising a man's name?

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Is it because a building will be spoiled? I do not know how many of his voters had big buildings. But our voters had no buildings absolutely; they live in huts and I do not think they mind it if it is pasted there.

So, I request him to withdraw this amendment. Let there be pressure on the first amendment which, I am sure, this side will also support.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman (Kumbakonam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, by the first amendment of my hon. friend, Shri Radha Raman, dealing with the public holiday, I am sure he really means that there must be a holiday in the polling area. The word used is 'constituency'. If it is so, a whole week may have to be declared a holiday. I am sure Shri Radha Raman has got that in mind. I am all for there being a holiday.

In fact, in some countries there is even compulsion used to see to it that people exercise their franchise. One cannot go to sleep over his democratic right of franchise. It is very important that people should exercise their franchise; and some countries even compel people—unless they are sick and are able to produce a medical certificate—to go to the polls. So, I am all for a declaration of a public holiday for a polling area. I do not think the word 'constituency' is apt in a country like India where there are huge constituencies and large areas, particularly rural areas.

I am afraid the second amendment is a bit wide. You will please note that what he is aiming to strike at is this, the spoliation of walls. First of all, we will have to define what spoiling a wall is. Supposing we got over that hurdle, what is next? The sponsor could stop with putting up any election stencil over any public or private building by any candidate or his agent. But if you say, 'by any other person' it is an asbolute responsibility. If I do not like the face of the opposing candidate I can see to it that some sort of stencil supporting him is put there and he gets knocked out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The candidate shall have to guard all the public and private buildings of his constituency.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He will have to withdraw.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I am sure he does not want it to be an absolute responsibility so far as spoiling the wall is concerned. And, I do not think his objection is so much to stencilling as to long banners at different places.

There again—indicating the name of the candidate, by whom? Is it by the candidate or at the instance of the candidate or on the instructions of the candidate? Nothing is made clear. I will suggest that he withdraws the second part of his amendments.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi (Ludhiana): Sir, the Bill under discussion has two parts. One part pertains to the amendment of section 123 of the Act by making additions to the corrupt practices; and the second part relates to the declaration of the polling day as a holiday.

Dealing with the amendments which relate to the addition of corrupt practices, there are certain fundamental objections to the proposed amendments. I concede that the suggestion of my hon. friend Shri Radha Raman is very good. Certainly, we must have a sense of cleanliness; and cleanliness should be maintained during the hustle and bustle of elections. Yet the question is whether the cleanliness in the civic life of the town can be brought by legislation—by an amendment of the Representation of the People Act.

Corrupt practices have got a certain limited scope and these corrupt practices only relate to the corruption in elections, bribery, undue influence and such things which have got a direct connection with the election and its furtherance. These practices which are unwholesome must be declared corrupt. But whether a matter which pertains to the civic life of the town should be brought in by an amendment of this Act is a question which is worth consideration.

I would say that if things of the type which my hon. friend has said are there, an amendment of the Corporation Act or the Municipal Act would be the best thing. The offence of spoliation of a building, public or private, can be punished and the punishment can be more deterrrent and the scope can be made wider. It is not that we should have an amendment of the Representation of the People Act. This is the first objection to the proposed amendment.

The second is this. I need not talk about legal terminology. I would respectfully submit to the House that the proposed amendment, as the hon. Member who preceded me said, is wide of the mark and widens the scope of corrupt practices. In the present Representation of the People Act the definition of agent under section 79 has already been eliminated and only that corrupt practice can be attributed to the candidate and he can be accused on this basis if it is committed by himself or by his election agent or with the consent of his agent or any other person. The parent Act says that a practice is not corrupt unless it is committed by the candidate himself, his election agent or by some other person with his consent. But this amendment widens the scope and says that this is a corrupt practice even if it is committed by his agent or by any other person, without his consent. It is too serious a thing on which we are embarking and we are creating comp'ications which, I am afraid, may reflect on the Members to a great extent. I am leaving aside the lose language of the proposed amendment for the moment. It will be very difficult. I feel firstly that a legislation of this kind should not be incorporated in a statute like the Representation of the People Act. Secondly, it is basically against the fundamental principle which is in the parent Act which says that under certain circumstances the candidate is guilty of corrupt practice. Thirdly, this should not be deemed to be a corrupt practice. Otherwise, candidates would not be able to run for the election at all. Even the small fixing of a mark on a private building would be become a corrupt practice. I do not know the position of the Government and naturally their position wou'd be that they could not accept an amendment of this kind. This suggestion should be incorporated in the municipal and corporation Acts. So, I strongly urge upon the hon. Mover to withdraw this Bill.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Sir, I welcome this Bill brought forward by my esteemed friend, Shri Radha Raman. I whole-heartedly support both the clauses of this Bill. I think no objection has been taken to clause 2. It has been said that the days fixed for polling in a constituency should be declared a holiday. One hon. Member was pleased to say that some distinction should be made between the day when the polling takes place in a polling station and the days when polling takes place in a constituency. I do not know the practice in the different States but so far as Punjab is concerned, I know that polling takes place in one constituency on one and the same day. Therefore, I think this distinction between a polling station where polling takes place and the constituency where polling is going to take place is artificial and more or less imaginary. I think that all the sections of this House will be happy if this day is declared a holiday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it happen in the parliamentary constituency also?

Shri D. C. Sharma: I was going to submit that so far as parliamentary constituency is concerned, it was in some ways a subsidiary election; it is a kind of a supplementary election which is tied on to the legislative assembly's election. Therefore, if a holiday is declared when the legislative assembly elections take place, I do not see the reason why the some provisions should not apply to the polling in parliamentary constituencies also. It has been said that all the elections whether they are of the Assembly or of the Parliament should take place on one and the same day. It is not possible to do so. I think there may come a time when we will be able to hold elections to the Assembly and also Parliament in the same day. So, I think that distinction, is not a very valid one.

My friend over there was talking about the workers. I know that sometimes the workers are not given a paid holiday on that day and also that other wage-earners are also not given a holiday. There are some schools and colleges where the teachers are not given the right to go out and cast their votes. There are all types of persons in our country who require this privilege and I hope it will be given to them for the effective functioning of democracy in our country. Democracy needs all kinds of facilities and I think this facility is needed so that the people may realise the value and the privilege of voting, so that they may know that it is a privilege which has got to be exercised.

There are some persons who said that clause 3 could not or should not form part of section 123 regarding corruption. They thought that the scope of that section should not be widened. I do not know what they have in view when they talk about corruption. Bribery is corruption; undue influence is corruption. But I would say that anything done, say unclean thing that is done in connection with an election, whether in the hygienic sense, sanitation sense or in any other sense, should constitute corruption. I believe that no harm would be done if these two sub-clauses are added to section 123.

One hon. Member has said that this is the only way in which we can make a candidate known. Human being are not so poor so far as resources are concerned that they should have recourse to such crude devices to make their parties or candidates known. These are very vulgar devices and should be done away within our country at the earliest possible opportunity. They are not only vulgar but sometimes they create a lot of class and caste hatred and also hatred between one political party and another. My friend was generalising from his experience and he is welcome to have that experience. Some of us have fought elections from constituencies which are conterminous with districts and we have seen that this stencilling on public walls is very much used to the detriment of some of the political parties in the country. I do not want to name the parties. I have seen it in my constituency and I am sure that hon. Members will bear me out when I say that. On the walls of the houses in my constituency stencilled pictures of all kinds, which do not only offend your taste or sense of decency but the values of life, were there. It also offends your sense of a clean fight in any parliamentary or assembly constituency. We aim at a clean fight, and I believe anything that goes against the principles of a clean fight must be done away with. Sir, you will forgive me if I say that in my constituency I saw a picture—I am very sorry to bring it to the notice of the House—of a cow with a gentleman who had a sword or a dagger in his hand as though he was trying to slaughter that cow or something like that. I think it is not only my experience. If I remember aright, Dr. Katju also referred to this thing in one of his speeches on the floor of the House. What do you think of that? You are using these stencilled pictures not to popularise the candidates but to bring some political parties into disrepute, into bad order, into all kinds of shame and disgrace. I do not know why we are fond of this kind of practice.

I would, therefore, Sir, say that this is not the function of municipalities to run Assembly elections, it is not the function of corporations to frame laws for election to Parliament. It is not a matter of sanitation or drainage, it is a matter of clean public life, wholesome parliamentary functions, wholesome parliamentary standards. I do not think that such important things can be delegated to municipalities and corporations. The Ministry of Law should therefore take notice of these things and do something so that this kind of thing is made a thing of the past.

It has been said that there is no harm in putting up banners. If the principle is that everything is far in love and war and everything is far in elections, there is no harm; you can do anything you like. If the ends justify the means, nothing is wrong there. But, Sir, we have been taught to believe that good ends should be secured by good means, and I believe that this practice of putting up banners is not something which is going to further the publicity with regard to a candidate or to the publicity with regard to a political party or to the publicity with regard to the programme of a political party.

I would therefore say that these things which are childish, I should say, and which show some kind of political immaturity should be done away with.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Our voters are not intellectually developed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: My hon. friend says that our voters are not mature.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I said that they are not intellectually developed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: With due deference to my hon. friend, I may tell him that our voters are much more mature than some of those whom they returned to this House. I would take my hat off to the voters for their shrewdness and for their hold on the issues of public. If they had not been mature, I think some of them would not have been there and some of us would not have been here. Therefore, it is no use calling into question the political maturity of the voters.

I would therefore suggest very respectfully that all these things should be done away with. My hon. friend, Shri Radha Raman, referred to the U.K. Act in which provisions like that exist. Well, it is good, because our law is based upon the U.K. pattern and if a thing like that exists there we are very happy for we are doubly armed to get a thing like that done. But even if it does not exist in U.K. or in any other country, I think we can take a decision of this kind on our own.

Now, there are some foreign visitors who come to India during the election days. I know some persons from other countries come and watch our polling. They watch persons who go to polling booths. They want to have some idea of the way in which India conducts its elections. Of course, they are all very happy about the way in which we conduct our elections, but I have met a few foreigners, Sir, who have been simply appalled and shocked on seeing those stencils on the walls of some of the cities and villages. I also submit very respectfully that some of the persons who come from other countries cannot understand these banners which are put up. Moreover, these banners sometimes create, I should say, some kind of controversy, some kind of fight between one group and another group. Therefore, even in the interets of civic harmony, even in the interest of civic peace, I think these banners should be done away with.

One of my hon. friends said that in this Act the candidates or the agents or other persons are responsible for corrupt practices and that happens only when the thing is done with the knowledge of the candidate. I agree. That is true. But I do not think Shri Radha Raman wants that this thing should be accepted as it is framed. He wants that the substance of what he has said should be accepted. If

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you want to make a change here and there he would not have any objection.

At the same time, I would submit very respectfully that the Representation of the People Act and the Prevention of Disqualification Act with reference to all of us are pieces of legislation about which at least I cannot be proud and about which I cannot feel happy. It is, Sir, due to the fact that we have not given as much thought to these Acts as we should have done. I think that these Acts should be under constant revision. They should undergo, if I may be permitted to say so, a revision every year, so that we can make these Acts as foolproof, if I can use that word, and as good as they should be. The difficulty is this. While we are passing these Bills, the High Courts, Supreme Court and other courts are picking holes in those Bills and we wake up only when some defect has been pointed out in those Bills. But that is not the path of wisdom. The way of wisdom lies in this, that there shou'd be a Standing Committee of this House consisting of the representatives of all the parties, and that Standing Committee should keep these two Acts under constant revision. As time goes on they should undergoing modifications and revisions so that hon. Members like Shri Radha Raman or some other Member is not put to the trouble of bringing in these Bills.

Sir, I know the fate of these Private Members' Bills is a very unhappy one in this House. There was a time when people used to think that India was a country in which infant mortality was the highest. Now, of course, we have got over that on account of better sanitation and other things. But, Sir, so far as Private Members' Bills are concerned, it is not a case of infant mortality, it is a case of general massacre. I have yet to see in this House a single Private Members' Bill accepted by any Minister. I think there was only one exception and that exception belongs to my hon. friend Shri Feroze Gandhi. He was able to put through a private Member's Bill successfully. There may be some other lucky person, but the number of such lucky persons is infinitesimally small. Therefore, I should say in the end that the House should appreciate the spirit in which this Bill has been put forward. The Minister of Law should appreciate the spirit which has actuated the hon. Member for bringing forward this Bill, and he should not only give thanks to the mover of this Bill but also should accept in substance, if not in words, the spirit and the contentions put forward in this Bill.

With these words, I support the Bill of Shri Radha Raman wholeheartedly, and I hope this will make for a cleaner, more decent and more effective democracy.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, although the Bill, as presented to the House may not be acceptable to me or to the House, it has raised a very important point. Firstly, if it had been possible in India to have polling on a single day, it would be quite practical and proper that the polling day should be declared a public holiday. But at present polling takes place on a number of days. Therefore, it is not possible, even if this Bill is accepted, to declare a holiday on polling days. My hon. friend said, there should be a holiday when polling takes place in constituency. In my constituency polling continues for over 20 days and a holiday is not possible. Then, the hon. Member who spoke first said that leave should be declared in a polling area for all the offices. That is not possible. The courts or the government offices or the factories are spread over a number of areas, and the voters belong to different offices and work in different areas. Therefore, if a holiday is declared in a polling area, that will be a small area, and that would not be of any avail. Hence, I suggest that we should make efforts to see that in our country polling takes place on a single day. If that is possible, I think

it would be better. I think efforts are being made now. The Election Commission has given an indication of it and said that it would try to get the polling work finished in ten days. At present it takes a month or so. But efforts are being made by the Election Commission to amend the procedure. If the amendment to the Act is possible, it would be better. In the meantime, I would suggest that every employee, including those employed in the courts, could be allowed leave for this purpose. If any person applies—a person employed in a court or under any Authority or in a factory—when there is polling in his constituency and when he says that he has to go for the polling, he should be granted leave by the manager of the factory or by the employer or by the presiding officer of the court, as the case may be.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): There are police constables on duty on the polling day. One man told me: "How can I go? I cannot move from my place". There are no provisions, so far as I know, in the Act, in regard to this matter. Government officers engaged as polling officers and probably army officers can exercise that right but not the police.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: There is provision for police and the army. But others who are engaged in the factories and who are engaged as government officials are not free to go for voting, either in person or by post. I may suggest that leave may be granted to those who have not the privilege of voting by postal ballots. My suggestion is only meant for them.

Then again, another point that has been raised by my friend is with regard to publicity and propaganda which are carried on. This Bill puts a curb on the method of advertisement and propaganda and publicity. We have some experience, and there are certain factors under the Election Commission which are under consideration at present. The points that have been made by my hon. friend are there. In a young democracy like India, it is necessary that there should be political propaganda. We have to educate the electorate and carry on such propaganda as will give the voters an idea as to how Parliament functions, what is the right of the voters, etc. All these things require propaganda of an educative nature. But at present, the propaganda that is being carried in in our country is not meant for political education. Most parts of the propaganda and publicity are limited to just nullify the importance of a particular candidate although that may not be befitting and proper. You will see that most of the propaganda is meant only to vilify others.

As has been pointed out by my friend, pictures of cows in Maharashtra in connection with the demand for Samyukta Maharashtra are posted, perhaps by way of accusing some persons as not having banned completely the slaughter of cows or the killing of cows. Such things are distributed among the electorate, and that was only to vilify the Congress and other parties. But I am not speaking of any ruling party. This is a general question in which everybody is interested, and every party should be interested in provisions for proper elections and propaganda.

Therefore, I may suggest, as put in by my friend Shri D. C. Sharma, that after every general election there should be an Electoral Reforms Committee appointed by the Government, and in that committee the Election Commission should be represented, and the Members of Parliament should also be represented. After every general election, all the practices that have been made and observed and that might have been brought to the notice of the Election Commission should be scrutinized and suitable amendments made.

As I said, the point that has been raised is that of proper method of propaganda and publicity in an election to which any candidate or any

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voter or a supporter may be entitled to. So far as the amendment of the section under consideration is concerned, that is, so far as section 123 is concerned, I should like to point out that formerly in the Representation of the People Act, there were two categories of election offences. First, there were corrupt practices and secondly, there was a provision for illegal offences. I think that was good. If corrupt practices were proved, the elections were set aside. But there are certain election offences which cannot be categorised as corrupt practices and for which there was punishment and in which case the elections were not set aside. Now, under the Representation of the People Act, as amended, we did not make a provision for such illegal offences as would come within the purview of the Act.

One category must relate to those offences involving the commission of such acts which, if proved, by the tribunal, would result in the setting aside of the election. That is very important. That provision should be there. But for minor offences as pointed out in the provisions in this Bill, while I support the idea in general, I feel that they are not such corrupt practices as would invalidate an election. But when the Government comes forward, after considering the report of the Election Commission which has been presented now, with an amendment to the Representation of the Peop'e Act, this question should be considered, namely, there should be certain offences which may not invalidate the election, but should be penal offences, and if the voter or anyone who commits such offences during the election, he should be punished sufficiently. Deterrent punishment should be provided for them.

But, as pointed out by so many hon. Members, if the provisions incorporated in clause 2 of the Bill are accepted by this House, they will lead to a very complicate position. Corrupt practice may by themse'ves affect the healthy conduct of elections. Supposing any person stencils anything in the name of any candidate on walls of a building, it will be very difficult to find out whether it was done with the connivance of the candidate or not. So, I do not support the Bill in its present form. As I have already pointed out, the importance of this Bill lies in the fact that it has raised a matter of very great public importance and the Election Commission as well as the Government should consider it.

I would like to suggest that before the next general elections, there should be an electoral reform committee appointed by the Government, on which Members of Parliament and other interested persons may be represented. This committee should go into the whole matter thoroughly, in the light of the experience gained in the last two general elections.

Therefore, I do not support the Bill in the present form. The idea is very good and I think my friend deserves congratulations because the matter has been put before the House and the public. I hope the Government will give sympathetic consideration to it. If it is acceptable to Government, I would suggest that this Bill along with the three or four other amending Bills which are before the House may be circulated for eliciting public opinion. After public opinion has been elicited on those Bills, the House may consider them. With these words, I conclude.

सरदार अ० सिं० रहमल : (जंजगीर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो बिल मेरे मित्र श्री राधा रमण लाये हैं, उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं अपने विचार रखने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं ।

मैं श्री राधा रमण के इस कथन से बिलकुल सहमत हूं कि जिस रोज पोलिंग हो उस रोज वोटर्स को छुट्टी रहनी चाहिये ताकि वे अपने मतदान का अधिकार अमल में ला सकें और मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की व्यवस्था हर एक क्षेत्र में होनी चाहिये ।

इसके साथ ही यह जो रिप्रेजेंटेशन आफ़ दी पीपुल एक्ट, १९५१ के सैक्शंस् ५६ और १२३ को अमेंड करने के लिए यह अमेंडमेंट बिल आया है उसके लिए मेरा कहना है कि आपको यह सुन कर ताज्जुब और दुःख होगा कि चुनावों के मौक़े पर कुछ पार्टियों के हमारे दोस्त लोग अपना चुनाव प्रचार करने और जनता को भड़काने के हेतु इस तरह के चित्र जनता में प्रचारित करते हैं जिन में, हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब की तस्वीर बनी होती है और एक गाय या एक बछड़ा पास में खड़ा दिखाई देता है और उस गाय या बछड़ा को मारने के लिये हाथ में छुरी ली हुई होती है और इस तरह से जनता को गुमराह और भड़काने वाले चित्रों का प्रचार हज़ारों लोगों के जल्सों में धड़ल्ले से किया जाता है और उनके खिलाफ़ कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है। मैं समझता हूं कि इस तरह की चीजें अच्छी नहीं हैं और उनके ऊपर प्रतिबंध लगाने की आवश्यकता है। इसी तरह मकानों की दीवारों और सड़कों आदि पर जो जनता को भड़काने वाले नारे वगैरह लिखे जाते हैं और अन पशनाप तस्वीरें और पोस्टर्स चिपकाये जाते हैं, वे अवांछनीय है और उस से हमारे देश की जनता का स्तर गिरेगा और इससे देश का कोई फायदा नहीं हो सकता नुक़सान ही होगा। मैं तो क़ानून मंत्री को जो यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं उन से यह प्रार्थना करना चाहूंगा कि इस तरह की चीज़ों को रोकने के लिए उनको कोई कानूनी प्रतिबंध लगाना चाहिये और उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए इस सदन के सामने यह और जो अन्य इस क़िस्म के बिल आ रहे हैं, उन्हें देखना चाहिये और यह विचार करना चाहिये कि वे क्या कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं और कहां तक उनके साथ जा सकते हैं। मैं नहीं कह सकता कि दूसरे देशों में ऐसा होता है या नहीं शायद न होता होगा और अगर होता होगा तो मुझे मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे। इस तरह के ज़हरीले और गंदे प्रचार से लोगों में जो बुरी भावना पैदा होती है वह ठीक नहीं है। हमारे राष्ट्र और राष्ट्र के जो कर्ता धर्ता जो हैं उन के लिए लोगों के मन में बुरी भावना पैदा करना ठीक नहीं है। इस तरह की बुरी भावना पैदा करना ठीक नहीं है। यहां पर जातीयता के आधार पर या पार्टी विशेष के आधार पर यदि इस क़िस्म की चीजें होती हैं तो वे ठीक नहीं हैं। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह न लगा लिया जाय कि मैं किसी भी पार्टी को अपनी बात मतदाताओं के सामने रखने से रोकना चाहता हूं। बेशक़ वह अपनी तमाम बातें जनता और वोटरों के सामने रक्खें और अपनी पार्टी का प्रोग्राम रक्खें। लेकिन होता यह है कि वे इस किस्म की किताबें और पर्चे आदि बांटते हैं जिन में अनापशनाप चीजें लिखी हुई होती हैं। और चुनावों में मैंने अक्सर देखा है कि हमारे कुछ भाई लोग इस तरह की हरकतें करते हैं जो कि वाजिब नहीं हैं और वह इस देश को नुक़सान पहुंचाने वाली हैं भले ही वे समझते हों कि इस से हमारी पार्टी को ताक़त मिलेगी और इस तरह ताकत मिलने से हम अपनी पार्टी को बढ़ा सकेंगे, मैं समझता हूं कि उनका ऐसा ख़याल करना ग़लत है। मैं उन से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि वे ऐसी चीजें न करें अलबत्ता और जितनी भी बातें और अपनी पार्टी का प्रोग्राम वगैरह वह जनता के सामने रखना चाहते हैं उसको वे बराबर रक्खें और इस प्लेटफ़ार्म से यदि दूसरी पार्टी वाले बोलना चाहते हैं तो बराबर बोलें। उनको पूरा हक़ इसके लिये होगा और उस पर कोई बंदिश किसी किस्म की न होगी लेकिन एक व्यक्ति गत आक्षेप किसी भी पार्टी के लीडर के खिलाफ़ या किसी भी पार्टी का जो उच्चाधिकारी हो या काम करने वाले हों उनके खिलाफ़ लाना मैं समझता हूं कि यह सभ्यता की निशानी नहीं है।

इन शब्दों के साथ श्री राधा रमण जो बिल लाये हैं मैं उस का समर्थन करता हूं लेकिन मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रार्थना करता हूं कि इस तरह की जो ग़लत और जनता को भड़काने वाली चीजें चुनावों के मौके पर किन्हीं पार्टियों या लोगों द्वारा की जाती हैं, उनको रोकने के लिए और उन पर क़ानूनी प्रतिबंध लगाने के

[सरदार अ० सिं० सहगल]

लिए कोई इस तरह का बिल लाने की कोशिश करें जिस से कि उनको जनता की राय मालूम हो जाय और यदि वे चाहें तो उसे जनता की राय जानने के लिये भेज सकते हैं ।

श्री मणिबेन पटेल (आनन्द) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं समझती हूं कि श्री राधा रमण अपने इस बिल के द्वारा सरकार का ध्यान कई चीजें जो कि चुनाव में चल रही हैं, उनके बारे में दिलाना चाहते हैं और उन में सुधार करने की जरूरत है ऐसा बताना चाहते हैं ।

मैं तो जब चुनाव हुए तभी सोच रही थी और मैं ने कई जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों का इधर ध्यान भी खींचा था कि किसी न किसी तरह से यह जो मकानों की दीवारें मंदिर आदि पर और सड़कें वगैरह पर तरह तरह के नारे और चीजें लिख कर खराब की जाती हैं, उचित नहीं है और मेरा तो कहना है कि नारे बुरे हों या भले किसी का मकान खराब करना कौन सी अच्छी बात है । अब गत चुनाव को हुए दो साल हो गये लेकिन उसके अगले चुनाव के समय के अभी भी कहीं-कहीं पर मकानों की दीवारों पर उस समय लिखे गये नारे वगैरह मौजूद हैं जो कि मेरी राय में नहीं होने चाहियें और मेरा सुझाव है कि हमें अपने लोगों को इसके लिए शिक्षित करना चाहिये कि वे ऐसी चीज न करें और इसलिए यह बिल जो मेरे भाई श्री राधा रमण लाये हैं वह स्वागत योग्य है और वह मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगा । इतना ही नहीं मैं कहती हूं कि अभी चुनाव होने में समय है और हर एक स्टेट से इस सम्बन्ध में सुझाव मंगाये जायें कि चनाव क़ानून में क्या क्या तबदीलियों के करने की जरूरत है । जनता से भी राय इस बारे में मंगाई जाय कि इस चुनाव के क़ानून में क्या क्या परिवर्तन करने की जरूरत है जिस से कि चुनाव ठीक और जल्दी हों । एलेक्शंस् में लोगों को जो शिक्षा मिले वह ऐसी शिक्षा नहीं मिलनी चाहिये कि जिस में आदमी गिरे और उसका नैतिक अधःपतन हो जाय । अब उस के लिए यह दलील देना कि चूंकि हमारे लोगों में अज्ञान है और पढ़े लिखे लोग नहीं हैं इसलिए दीवारों और सड़कों पर लिखने की ज़रूरत होती है या कपड़े पर लिख कर एक मकान से दूसरे मकान में बांध कर टांगने की ज़रूरत पड़ती है, मैं उनकी यह दलील नहीं मानती । हमारे लोगों में अक्षर ज्ञान भले ही न हो परन्तु उन में कौमेनसेंस का अभाव नहीं है और वे सब कुछ समझ सकते हैं और अपना भला बुरा और हानि लाभ समझ सकते हैं । अब कुछ क्षेत्रों में भले ही इस तरह के भड़काने वाली चित्रों और लिखावटों का वहां के वोटर्स पर असर पड़ा हो और उन के दिल हिलाने वाले चित्रों और लिखावटों से वे बह गये हों या उस से उन्होंने अपने मत दिये हों परन्तु साधारणतः हमारे लोग ऐसे बुद्धिहीन नहीं हैं भले ही उन में अक्षर-ज्ञान न हो । लेकिन मेरा कानून मंत्री से अनुरोध है कि यह जो इस तरह की हरकतें भड़काने वाले चित्रों और लिखावटों की सड़कों और मकानों की दीवारों पर लिख कर किन्हीं लोगों अथवा पार्टियों द्वारा की जाती हैं, यह उचित नहीं है और ऐसी कोई भी चीज़ नहीं होनी चाहिये जो कि जनता को गिराने वाली हों । मंत्री महोदय को इस बारे में सोचना चाहिये कि अभी अगला चुनाव आने में काफी समय है इसलिए चुनाव के क़ानून और रूल्स् में जो भी संशोधन और परिवर्तन वांछनीय हों उनको कर लेना चाहिये ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी (हमीरपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय , मैं इस बिल के समर्थन में दो एक महत्वपूर्ण बातें कहना चाहता हूं । पहली बात तो यह है कि मंत्री महोदय ने देखा कि एक नहीं बल्कि कई संशोधन विधेयक इस सदन में पास हुए हैं, उनका क्या कारण है? कारण यह है कि एलेक्शंस के समय जो गड़बड़ियां होती हैं और जो बुराइयां

उत्पन्न होती हैं, उनकी तरफ़ सरकार की पूरी पूरी निगाह नहीं जाती। एलेक्शन कमिशन जो प्रतिवेदन रखते हैं संसद् के सम्मुख या जनता के लाभ के लिये उस में केवल उन बातों का ही समावेश होता है जो एलेक्शन कमिशन के कर्मचारी पता लगा पाते हैं। मेरा खयाल है कि अगल एलेक्शन की काफ़ी समय पूर्व इस बात का भी खयाल रखना चाहिये कि आयन्दा से जो उम्मीदवार खड़े होते हैं अथवा पब्लिक के जो दूसरे लोग एलेक्शन में दिलचस्पी लेते हैं उनके सुझावों को भी सरकार मांगा करे कि कौन सी ऐसी बुराइयां हैं जिनकी वजह से एलेक्शंस् में कमजोरियां या गड़बड़ियां पैदा होती हैं और उन सब बातों को देख कर जो संशोधन विधेयक चुनाव के पहले रखा जाय उस में उन बातों पर ध्यान रख कर अगर देखा जायेगा और अमल किया जायेगा तो यह शिकायतें दूर हो सकती हैं। अधिकतर संसद सदस्यों न अथवा विधान सभाओं के सदस्यों ने इस बात को अनुभव किया है कि पीपिल्स रिप्रजेंटेशन बिल में कुछ गड़बड़ियां रह गयी हैं जिनके कारण बड़ी-बड़ी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। अभी हमारे सदन में एक सदस्य हिमाचल प्रदेश से चुन कर आये थे, उन्होंने एक व्यक्ति क एजेंट मुकर्रर किया। उनको पता नहीं था कि उन्होंने किसको मुकर्रर किया है। लेकिन वह व्यक्ति फौज में नौकर था। उनको कई हजार फार्मों पर दस्तखत करने थे वह उन्होंने कर के भेज दिये और स्थानीय लोगों ने नाम भर कर एजेंट मुकर्रर कर दिया। लेकिन जब उन्हें पता चला कि फौज का आदमी काम नहीं कर सकता तो उसने काम नहीं किया। लेकिन चूंकि वह उनके हस्ताक्षरों से ऐजेंन्ट बना था इसलिए वह इलेक्शन रद्द कर दिया गया। अगर बिल में जरूरी सुधार कर दिया गया होता तो इस प्रकार इलेक्शन रद्द न होता, इलेक्शन रद्द होना कोई साधारण बात नहीं है।

दूसरी तरफ हमारा ध्यान उस मांग की तरफ भी जाना चाहिये जो कि श्री राधा रमण जी ने छुट्टी के मुताल्लिक की है। मैं उनकी इस मांग का समर्थन करता हूं। चुनाव के दिन छुट्टी होना आवश्यक है। आप देखें कि अगर कोई मजदूर किसी कारखाने में काम करता हो और उस दिन छुट्टी न हो तो उसको उसकी मजदूरी जो कि मिलती है नहीं मिलेगी और जो वह रुपया दो रुपया उस दिन कमा सकता है नहीं कमा पायेगा, तो वह खायेगा क्या। ऐसी सूरत में अगर उस दिन छुट्टी हो तो वह वोट दे सकता है और उसका नुकसान भी नहीं होगा।

इसी तरह से बहुत से कर्मचारी जो रेलों में काम करते हैं उनका सवाल है। ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये कि जो उनमें से वोटर हों उनको उस दिन छुट्टी मिलनी चाहिये और उस दिन दूसरे इलाकों के आदमी रेलों पर काम करें अगर रेल का काम बन्द नहीं करना है। लोगों को इस तरह छुट्टी न मिलने से वोटों पर बहुत असर पड़ता है और उम्मीदवारों को जितने वोट मिल सकते हैं नहीं मिल पाते। आज चाहे देश में बहुत से लोग बेकार हों लेकिन ऐसा समय आने वाला है कि अधिक से अधिक लोगों को काम मिल जायेगा। उस समय अगर छुट्टी की व्यवस्था नहीं हुई तो क्या परिणाम होगा। अगर छुट्टी न की गई तो उस समय यह होगा कि जो आजकल ४० या ५० प्रतिशत वोट पड़ते हैं, उस समय २० प्रतिशत ही पड़ सकेंगे। ऐसी अवस्था में जिस दिन जिस इलाके में चुनाव हो वहां छुट्टी होना बहुत जरूरी है।

मेरे भाई श्री श्रीनारायण दास जी ने इसका विरोध किया है। मैं समझता हूं कि या तो उन्होंने इस असुविधा को अनुभव नहीं किया या जान बूझ कर उन्होंने इस चीज का विरोध किया है। मैं समझता हूं कि चाहे अभी इसको स्वीकार न करें लेकिन बाद में मंत्री महोदय भी इसकी आवश्यकता को अनुभव करेंगे।

[श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी]

पोस्टर लगाने का भी यहां विरोध किया गया । लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आजकल इतने उम्मीदवार खड़े हो जाते हैं कि मतदाताओं को पता नहीं चलता कि कौन-कौन खड़ा हुआ है । ऐसी अवस्था में अगर उम्मीदवार मोटे-मोटे अक्षरों में अपने नाम और अपनी विशेषतायें लिखकर जनता के सामने न रखें तो जनता को उनके बारे में जानकारी कैसे हो । तो ऐसी स्थिति में विज्ञापन करना आवश्यक है । अगर सरकार इसको बन्द कर देना चाहती है तो उसको यह व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये कि हर पोलिंग स्टेशन के आस पास कुछ बोर्ड रखें जायें ताकि उन पर उम्मीदवार अपने अपने पोस्टर लगा सकें ताकि मतदाताओं को उनके बारे में जानकारी हो सके । इस प्रकार के बोर्ड मुख्य-मुख्य स्थानों पर लगाये जाने चाहियें तभी लोग जान पायेंगे कि कौन-कौन उम्मीदवार खड़े हुये हैं । यह व्यवस्था हो जायेगी तब दीवारों पर पोस्टर लगाना बन्द हो जायेगा ।

मैं चाहता हूं कि इस बिल में यह संशोधन कर दिये जायें । मैं तो कुछ और सुधार भी सुझाना चाहता था पर वे इस बिल की परिधि के बाहर होंगे इसलिये नहीं सुझाता । जब माननीय मंत्री महोदय अपना बिल लायें उस समय इन बातों को ध्यान रख कर लायें और उस पर सदन की राय मालूम करें । खास कर ऐसे समय पर वह बिल लायें जब कि चुनाव हाल ही में हो चुका हो ताकि सदस्य उनको अपने ताजा-ताजा अनुभव बतला सकें और उन सब बातों को मालूम करने के बाद बिल में उचित संशोधन किये जायें । मैं समझता हूं कि इस प्रकार जो संशोधन विधेयक आयेगा वह मुकम्मल होगा और तभी वह कामयाब हो सकता है ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं श्री राधा रमण जी को बधाई देता हूं कि उन्होंने इस प्रकार का बिल लाकर जनता और सदन का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया ।

Shri Achar *rose—*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid, Shri Achar has made up his mind very late.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): I will not take more than four minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry it is too late.

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I hesitate to do so but I must state that I oppose the Bill. My hesitation arises from the fact that no less a person than Professor D. C. Sharma has accused the Government of infanticide of Private Members' Bills. I stoutly deny the charge. But in fairness to him I must disclose my own personal feeling—what he regards as probably death of a Bill, my own personal feeling is an optical illusion. I am sure he must have witnessed some of the tricks of magicians where a live person is brought on the stage and cut into two.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can do that himself.

Shri Hajarnavis: I did not know that among his many achievements this was also one. As he knows well, no good Bill, like a good word or deed, is ever wasted. It may be that a private member's Bill is spirited away by magic and brought in new garb as a government Bill but the private Members do not get the credit; the recognition for their devotion and for their study which they deserve. If that was the charge made, probably I will consider whether I may not plead guilty to it. If anything is said, either during discussion here or if any measure is brought in this House or elsewhere by a private member, I can assure him and I can assure everyone that Government takes it very seri-

ously into consideration and then in all probability brings it as their own Bill. I must, before I leave this point, thank the hon. Members who, in spite of the fact that they get very little encouragement from us, do their duty to this House and to the country in drawing the attention of the Government to the many important problems which arise, and I hope that we will continue to receive the same kind of co-operation from them in spite of the fact that we appear technically to oppose them.

As regards the first point, the Bill says that there shall be a holiday. Shri D. C. Sharma based his speech in the House on the supposition that it is going to be a paid holiday. The Bill as introduced in the House does not say that what is provided is a holiday with pay, and advisedly so.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Holiday means holiday with pay.

Shri Hajarnavis: If it is a holiday with pay, he would probably meet with the initial difficulty that it would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund and he would have to take certain preliminary steps before we proceed to consider this Bill. After all, this holiday which would be a statutory holiday would involve Government—at least Government, in certain expenditure. If that is so...

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: We observe the 26th January as a public holiday and Government certainly incurs a large expenditure in that holiday. Similarly, the election is also a national holiday, once in five years, and some expenditure may be involved, but I know in tour and several other matters large sums of money are being spent by the Government on officials in the election machinery.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different thing.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Similarly, a holiday is necessary because the voters cannot exercise if they are Government servants.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not a new speech now.

Shri Hajarnavis: I am not suggesting this cannot be done, but if it is sought to be done by this Bill, then it becomes a Bill in which expenditure from the Consolidated Fund would be necessary. If that is the nature of the Bill, then . . .

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I ask whether they provide from the Consolidated Fund for the 26th January or any other day which is a public holiday.

Shri Hajarnavis: It has a statutory backing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different aspect. If Shri Dwivedi recognises that that would be a different thing, then this thing can proceed. That is the point that is being made.

Shri Hajarnavis: So far in practice by executive action in the polling areas all the Government offices are closed. As regards commercial and industrial concerns, whether private or public, the Election Commissioner appreciate the difficulty of having a closed holiday for all the workers. What they have done is to request the employers' organisations and other authorities to give reasonable facilities to the workers in these undertakings to cast their vote without being made to suffer any loss of wages. It has also been suggested, and I will draw the attention of my hon. friend Shri Banerjee to this portion, that if in a particular establishment a substantial portion of the workers apply in good time for a substituted holiday on the polling day, a holiday in lieu of another to which the workers are entitled, the management should agree to such an arrangement. These arrangements have been working quite satisfactorily and no complaint has so far been received.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Those orders are there, but suppose a mill is running on three shifts—that can only be done if there is one general shift; they

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

vote on a Saturday and compensate the lost hours on Sunday. Where there is shift duty, it cannot be done, unless it is declared a holiday.

Shri Hajarnavis: The Election Commission says that so far they have not received any complaint that the right of actual voting has been denied because they have not been given any holiday. What the Members have indicated at the most is a possibility of such interference, but nothing has been placed before the House or mentioned here to show whether in fact it interferes or not.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: If the Election Commission has failed to observe certain things and if the Members have known from personal experience, shall we not take a lesson?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, the hon. Minister is not yielding.

Shri Hajarnavis: I merely suggest that what has been said is a mere possibility; no concrete case has been quoted in the House so far in the course of the debate to which I have listened very carefully.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He did not file an election petition. Otherwise, he would have mentioned the point.

Shri Hajarnavis: Then, the other question would arise whether if it is a paid holiday, which has to be paid for by Government or by the commercial or other industrial concerns, this would not be the only election in which a holiday would be justified. If the same electorate goes to elect members for another authority, say, corporation, or any other authority, would there not be justification for having a holiday for each election.

An Hon. Member: This is only for the general elections.

Shri Hajarnavis: The question then would be whether the industry or Government would bear the expenditure for the whole day, merely because half an hour or one hour is required for voting. I do not think that with the present arrangement that the Election Commission is making whereby it is making it easy for the elector to come to the booth and cast the vote, it will take anything more than two hours. We can probably still improve the arrangements in that direction.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I submit once again that in some places the election booth is about five miles away, and it takes two hours even to walk to the polling booth?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. When the hon. Minister is not yielding, the hon. Member should not continue.

Shri Hajarnavis: So far as the rural population is concerned, I do not think this Bill is going to affect them at all. There is no question of a holiday so far as the rural population is concerned. The question merely relates to the facility which is to be afforded to the electors in urban areas.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: So far as they also are concerned, the courts are not closed; therefore, the voters are not free to vote.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: They work in the fields also.

Shri Hajarnavis: I have already said that so far as Government offices in that area are concerned, they are always closed by executive orders. Therefore, there can be no complaint on that ground. The question is whether there should be a statutory foundation for a public holiday. That is the simple question which we are considering.

The question is whether the expenditure that would be involved in having a number of holidays would be justified in the light of the actual time which is required for the voting itself. There is a complaint already

that we are enjoying too many holidays. Are we going to add to them? I might inform the hon. Mover that in the U.K. no holiday is given on the election day. I have myself seen that in the urban areas people who work in private firms etc., that is, private servants, go and ask their employers permission to go and exercise their right to vote, and no one has ever been prevented from voting.

Then, there is another class of workers who will be affected, namely, the class of workers who are paid according to piece work. Why should the establishment in which they work be closed so as to deprive them of the opportunity to earn their income during the whole of the day because there is an election? If they say they will like time for voting, they would go in the early morning and vote and then come and work in the factory, should we refuse it? Why should the factory be closed; when we are all interested—I am addressing this to Shri S. M. Banerjee in particular—in increasing production, should elections be regarded as a good ground for closing all the commercial and industrial concerns? Government do not think that it is justified and they feel that the present arrangements are quite satisfactory.

As regards the second point, my observations on that part of the Bill have already been anticipated by my hon. friend, Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi, and Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman, who are able lawyers. They are right, in my opinion, in pointing out that the subject-matter of the Representation of the People Act is the holding of free and fair elections. All that the Representation of the People Act will ensure would be that as a result of the activities of the electoral apparatus which is erected, people's political choice would be reflected in the result obtained, uninfluenced by financial or communal considerations. That the process of election shall be free and fair is the subject-matter of the Representation of the People Act and the provision in respect of corrupt practice in particular.

Here, the objection that is being taken is the objection to the disfigurement of the walls. That is to say, the objection is aesthetic rather than electoral. It is to the manner of communication rather than to the communication itself. I submit that if the observations of Prof. D. C. Sharma and my hon. friend, Shri Amar Singh Saigal are true, they reveal indeed a deplorable state of facts. But, the objection is more to the content of what is written than to the manner in which it is written.

Our Constitution guarantees—and even if it did not guarantee it would be a matter of essence of free elections—that there should be the greatest amount of freedom of expression. And, freedom of expression would mean not only freedom as to what is said but also as regards the media through which it is said. The word of mouth may be used; visual representation may be used; you might print it; you might write it in the sky; you may speak it on the loud-speaker. If the essence of what is being said is not objectionable, the fact that you say it in a particular manner is not objectionable at all unless, of course, the manner is anti-social. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi was quite right in saying that if the banner is an obstruction to the traffic, if it is indecent, if it affects the comfort or safety of the people who live in the locality, then, surely, these grounds of objection shall be looked into by the Municipality or by the District Board. You are objecting to it not because what is written is bad; you are objecting to it because it affects the health or the safety or the movement of the people of that locality. So stated, the question very properly falls within the sphere of the local authorities. It can come within the sphere of electoral offences only if what is being done is to transgress the limits of contesting a free and fair election.

If I have a house and if on the walls of that house I write an appeal of Shri Radha Raman and write that in a manner I choose, what is the

[Shri Hajarnavis]

offence committed? It is my property. I may print a handbill; I may put up a board. I might say that so far as my walls are concerned, on those walls, I will write that I want every elector to vote for Shri Radha Raman. Even though it might be regarded by some as disfigurement of the wall—some may regard it as artistic—what is wrong in it? It is the inherent right of property of a person that he can use that property in any manner he chooses, provided he does not transgress any law. It is a right which is guaranteed to him by the Constitution. So long as what he does is not anti-social, so long as it does not affect public morality or health or safety or it is not one of the grounds on which the rights of property may be curtailed, so long is he entitled to the right to property. He is also entitled to the right to the freedom of expression.

If, therefore, we suggest that if a person writes only on the wall of his house that we should vote for Mr. X he commits a corrupt practice, it is something which is entirely foreign to the subject of corrupt practice. I can say by word of mouth, Vote for X; I can print a pamphlet saying, Vote for X; I can probably escape the provisions of this Bill if I put up a board on the wall which I can remove, saying Vote for X. But, I cannot write it on the wall of my house. It is something which, to my mind, is not quite logical. That being so, so long as a person writes on his own house, uses his own property, he is free to do so. The Constitution guarantees to him the right to do so. So far as writing on others' houses is concerned, any lawyer will tell my hon. friend, Shri Radha Raman, that he commits the offence of trespass, if he is doing that without the consent of the owner of the house, damage the house, so that if any hon. Member of this House finds that some one has written on the wall of his house without his consent, he is liable to be proceeded against in a civil court and he will be able to claim damages from the person who causes damage to his property. If people allow others to exhibit their political opinions or preferences on their property, surely we must leave it at that. Therefore, Government did not think that there was anything to be gained by acccpting this Bill before us. That being our position, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill.

So far as the other suggestions which are made here and which the hon. Members intend to make, I may point out to them that the Election Commission at frequent intervals calls the leaders and representatives of all the parties and at various stages they discuss the suggestions made by the Election Commission or the other parties. It is a body established under our Constitution and it is the final authority for holding the elections. No complaint has so far been made either here or anywhere else that the Election Commission has disregarded any suggestion which any Member regarded as valuable. I find that in most of the discussions which the Election Commissioner holds with the various parties, near unanimity is reached on all the points and I am quite sure that this practice will be continued by the Election Commission and that it will continue to receive the full co-operation from the various parties which it has so far received.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Radha Raman may take two or three minutes.

श्री राधा रमण : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने बहुत ध्यान से मंत्री महोदय के विचार सुने । उन्होंने यह आपत्ति की है कि यह बिल अधूरा है और इसके द्वारा जिस ख्वाहिश को मैंने और सदन के दूसरे माननीय सदस्यों ने जाहिर किया है वह पूरी नहीं हो सकती । इसको देखते हुये मैं समझता हूं, जैसा कि मेरे लायक दोस्त श्री दीवान चन्द जी ने कहा है, मुझे इस बिल को आखिर में वापस लेना ही पड़ेगा जैसा कि सब नान आफिशियल

बिलों के बारे में होता है । मंत्री महोदय ने जो बातें कही हैं उनका हमारे बिल पर ऐसा गहरा असर नहीं हुआ है कि हम मान लें कि जिन छोटी छोटी बातों को इस बिल में रखा गया है उनको नहीं माना जा सकता ।

छुट्टी के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि आज सारे हिन्दुस्तान में यह प्रैक्टिस है कि कमर्शियल और इंडस्ट्रियल एंटरप्राइजेज में यह होता है कि उस दिन छुट्टी कर देते हैं और मजदूर इतवार को काम कर लेते हैं। जब यह प्रैक्टिस सारे देश में मौजूद है तो फिर उसको कानून में रखने में क्या दिक्कत है । जैसा अभी श्री द्विवेदी जी ने कहा हम २६ जनवरी को सारे देश में छुट्टी कर देते हैं । यह इलैक्शन भी पांच साल में एक दिन के लिये होता है, और हम देश में डिमाक्रेसी को चलाना चाहते हैं, इसलिये यह आवश्यक है कि उस दिन छुट्टी रखी जाये ।

इसके अलावा यह बात भी यहां रखी गयी कि इलैक्शन कमीशन के सामने यह विचार है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में एक दिन ही चुनाव कराये जायें । उस अवस्था में तो उस दिन छुट्टी करना और भी जरूरी होगा । तो मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय को और इलैक्शन कमीशन को भी इस पर विचार करना चाहिये । इस छुट्टी के बारे में सारे हाउस ने अपनी राय दी है । इसलिये इस पर अवश्य विचार करना चाहिये । अगर आप इसको नहीं मानते और चुनाव के दिन छुट्टी की व्यवस्था नहीं करते तो इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि कुछ कारखानों में झगड़ा होगा । कुछ कारखानों में यह होता है कि मजदूरों को मालिक छुट्टी नहीं देते और मजदूर काम बन्द करके बैठ जाते हैं, तब घंटे दो घंटे के बाद उनको एम्पलायर छुट्टी देते हैं ।

यह बात भी कही गयी कि इंगलैंड में चुनाव के दिन छुट्टी नहीं दी जाती । मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कहां इंगलैंड और कहां हिन्दुस्तान । इंगलैंड एक छोटा सा मुल्क है और इसके अलावा वहां सदियों से डिमाक्रेसी चली आ रही है और हर एक आदमी के दिल में घर कर गयी है । इसलिये इंगलैंड का हिन्दुस्तान से मुकाबला नहीं किया जा सकता । और चूंकि वहां के कानून में चुनाव के दिन छुट्टी की व्यवस्था नहीं है इसीलिये यहां पर भी इस तरह का सुझाव न मानना ठीक नहीं होगा । इसके लिये सदन के चारों तरफ से मांग की जा रही है । इसलिये मंत्री महोदय को इस पर विचार करना चाहिय ।

एक बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती कि जब आप एक कानून बनाते हैं लाउड स्पीकर और दूसरी बहुत सारी चीजों के बारे में तो फिर स्टेंसिलिंग के लिये कानून में व्यवस्था करना क्यों उचित नहीं समझते । ऐसा तो नहीं कि अगर स्टेंसिलिंग बन्द कर दिया जायेगा तो पबलिसिटी और प्रोपेगेंडा का दरवाजा ही बन्द हो जायेगा । और देशों में भी दुनिया में यह सुविधा नहीं है । तो फिर हिन्दुस्तान ही क्या सारी दुनिया से अलग है । हिन्दुस्तान में भी लोग बसते हैं । अगर तमाम दुनिया में बगैर स्टेंसिलिंग के काम हो सकता है तो क्या यहां नहीं हो सकता ।

आपने फरमाया कि जिनकी दीवारों पर पोस्टर आदि लगाये जायें उन मकानदारों को अदालत में जाना चाहिये । कौन मकान मालिक इस छोटी सी बात के लिये अदालत में जायेगा । और अगर कोई जायेगा भी तो जज को उस मुकदमे को फैसला करने में एक दो दिन लग जायेंगे और खर्चा होगा । तो ऐसी सूरत में एक छोटी सी बात को ही क्यों न मान लिया जाये । यही बात मेनर्ज की है । मेरा ख्याल है कि बहुत छोटी बातें हैं और उनसे प्रोपेगेंडा और पब्लिसिटी खत्म नहीं हो जायगी । लेकिन बात यह है कि कहा गया है कि इस में टेक्निकल आबजेक्शन हैं और अगर टेक्निकल आबजेक्शन के कारण सही

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बात हो, तो उसको भी लात मारनी चाहिये। मुझे तो यही बात समझ में आती है। इसलिये, जनाब, जैसा हाल और सब का होता है, वैसा ही मेरा भी हाल समझना चाहिये।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं क्या समझूं—यह बा-मजबूरी है या खुशी से है।

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

16.23 hrs.

INDIAN FIRE-ARMS BILL

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ganjam): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms, ammunition and military stores be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members, namely, Shri Mahavir Tyagi, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shri Narendrabhai Nathwani, Shri Jagan Nath Prasad Pahadia, Shri Shraddhakar Supakar, Shri Radha Raman, Shri Raghunath Singh, Shri Ram Garib, Shri Ajit Singh Bhatinda, Shri Raghubir Sahai, Shri Deen Bandhu Parmar, Shri Diwan Chand Sharma, Shri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, Shri M. Thirumala Rao, Shri L. Elayaperumal, Shri Jaganatha Rao, Shri Radha Charan Sharma, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri Bada Kumar Pratap Ganga Deb Bamra, Shri N. Keshava, Shri Naushir Bharucha, Shri Satis Chandra Samanta, Shri Pramathanath Banerjee, Shri M. S. Sugandhi, Shri Hem Barua, Shri Motisinh Bahadursinh Thakore, Shrimati Krishna Mehta, Shri A. M. Tariq, Sheikh Mohammad Akbar, Shri P. K. Kodiyan, Shri K. K. Warrior, Shri A. E. T. Barrow, Shri Dinesh Singh, Shri Subodh Hansda, Shri Rameshwar Sahu, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Shree Narayan Das, Rani Manjula Devi, Dr. N. C. Samantsinhar, Shri Baishnab Charan Mullick, Shri Krishna Chandra, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the end of May, 1959.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): What about the Minister?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I beg your pardon. I consulted the hon. Minister in charge. He is also moving for another Select Committee. The provisions of the Arms Act as proposed by him and the provisions of the Indian Fire-arms Bill as proposed by me are somewhat different in scope. So, it is necessary that I will have to move this motion with the gentlemen who have given their names and their consent, and then abide by the decision of the House. I am to submit that apart from those friends who have given their consent to be on the Select Committee, there are many others who are interested in the subject. Probably they prefer to speak and, therefore, I have not added their, and some others' names.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Those who have given their consent have forgone their right to speak?

Shri Raghunath Singh: I shall seek your permission to speak.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): I would also like to speak.

16·26 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAMMED IMAM *in the Chair*]

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Mr. Chairman, while moving this Bill for consideration of the House, I would make a few submissions about the Act which is subsistent today, 11 years after freedom. That was the old Act of 1860 which was revised in 1878. You remember history tells us of our first war of independence which foreign historians call the Indian Mutiny. After that war of independence, the Britisher tried two methods of suppressing the Indian nation; for disarming the Indian nation and making it impossible for another rebellion of that kind. On the military side, they had some committees,—the Eden Committee and others—which took effec-

tive measures whereby the army was so re-organized that a rebellion was impossible. In the army reorganization concepts were introduced like the so-called martial races and non-martial races, martial classes and non-martial classes, martial areas and non-martial areas and so on. Then the Indian officers were relegated to a minor position—Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. The Indian Officers were removed and the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers were introduced, to be a liaison between the young British officer on the one hand and the men on the other. Various other methods were adopted whereby it was sought to ensure that no future rebellion was possible.

On the civilian side, as was referred to in the debates of 1919, the purpose of the Britisher was to see that there was no scope for trouble from the civilians. So, the entire nation was disarmed except those who were the henchmen of the Britishers, who were their camp-followers and who were prepared to do anything against the country for the British rulers. That was the time when the Indian Arms Act was passed. It was in 1860 and that Act was so formulated that Indians would be disarmed for all time to safeguard British stranglehold over this nation.

I would refer only to one sentence from what Mahatma Gandhi had said during his lifetime. He said:

> "Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving the whole nation of arms as the blackest".

The Act was thus passed in 1860 and revised in 1870. There were some minor revisions in 1919 and so on. But I need not trouble this House about them. The entire purpose of the Act was to disarm the entire nation. Rules were framed under the Act. Then, there were rules in 1879 and again in 1909. Then, in 1918, there was a resolution by the hon. Member, Shri Kaparde in the Central Legislature and it was supported by Sir Surendranath Bannerjee and the late hon. V. J. Patel and others. They wanted a relaxation of the Indian Arms Laws clause, making them analogous to those in other free countries. The then Government did not agree to it. Some rules were, however, framed in 1920 and 1924. In these rules, there was just a little relaxation. One relaxation would be of great interest to this House, *viz.*, members of the Central and State Legislatures were granted exemption for having arms. That was in the 1924 rules.

After attaining freedom, we had not thought fit to change this outmoded law, which had been calculated to disarm the whole country especially the patriotic elements. All that we did after freedom was that certain changes were made in the rules by an order of the Government of India, dated 28th April, 1950. The exemption clause—section 27—was rather tightened. Some of the exemptees were removed from the list; members of the Legislatures who enjoyed exemption from arms licences since 1924 were removed from the exemption list and there were only a few classes of exemptees, *e.g.*, *ex*-rulers, members of their families, their aides-de-camp and so on; they were allowed to continue as exemptees. Except for this retrograde step, the law is still continuing today as it existed before.

In the meantime, in 1950-53, the then Speaker of this House, Shri G. V. Mavalankar, gave a lead to the country by organising the National Rifle Association and having annual competitions. He began with Delhi and then Bangalore, Ahmedabad and so on. In Delhi, there were competitions sometimes in 1951 to 1953, which were attended by Members of this House. There was great enthusiasm aroused and that was the time when we all felt that the outmoded laws should be changed and that Government should do something to encourage the rifle organisation and

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help the training of our youth in marksmanship and discipline. In 1953-54, a number of activities showed themselves in this House. There was a Resolution moved by about 70 Members of the then House that in order to train the youth of the country, rifle organisations should be encouraged by Government. The hon. Member from West Bengal who is in our midst today, Shri S. C. Samanta, moved an amendment, supporting it but giving it a slightly different turn. The resolution was accepted by this House in 1954 and since then, Government has been giving some support to the rifle organisation. Our Home Minister himself is the President of the organisation and there is an attempt to spread the organisation throughout the country.

At that time, Shri Tyagi, the then Minister of Defence Organisation, evolved a scheme for civilian rifle training in the whole country and he gave indications to all the States of his offer. But the States have not followed up the efforts made by the Defence Ministry who offered ·303 and ·22 rifles and the necessary ammunition at cheap rates. But on account of various difficulties that could not be done.

At that time I had also introduced a Bill to give some exemptions under the Arms Act. I introduced in this House Bill No. 49 of 1953 whereby I wanted that the Arms Act should not extend to certain categories of persons *e.g.,* Members of Legislatures, members of the Home Guards, officers of gazetted rank, Territorial Army, civil defence organisation and so on. I wanted also a provision for registration of arms. I also provided in the Bill that the rules under the Act shall be laid on the Table of the House, as State Governments had been framing executive orders of different types in pursuance of rules which also were not properly publicised.

There was a discussion and very many members from both sides not only took an active part in the discussions on my Bill and supported the measure but they also went much beyond it, and they said that not only that amendment but very many other changes should be adopted and the outmoded Arms Act should immediately be scrapped and a new Act substituted, which shall be commensurate with the needs of a free country, not based upon suspicion but based upon a positive approach.

The Bill was discussed on the 26th March, 1954 and 9th April, 1954, and the House resolved that the Bill be circulated for public opinion. At that time the then Home Minister gave an assurance that public opinion will be called for from the whole country not merely on the limited scope of the Bill that I had introduced but on the entire Act. It was referred to the whole country so that people could give their opinion about proposed changes in the entire arms laws of India. As per the resolution of this House the extracts of proceedings were also circulated to all the States and about 30 sets of opinions were received from different State Governments, incorporating their own views and also incorporating the views of High Court judges, District judges, senior officers, Bar associations, Members of State Legislatures and others. A number of opinions, hundreds of them, were received and they were again codified or summarised by our Secretariat and placed on the Table of the House from time to time. After these opinions were received, which covered practically the entire Act itself, there was a discussion in the House on the 10th December, 1954.

The hon. Minister gave an assurance on 10th December, 1954 that Government would be bringing a Bill to change the entire arms laws of India. Several hon. Members have since been tabling questions in the House. as to when the new Bill would be coming, and ultimately the new

Bill has come during the last session. The hon. Home Minister has introduced the Bill. Though he has not yet moved for the "next motion", we hope it will be moved soon. I congratulate the Home Minister and his Ministry for they have introduced a Bill wherein many of the rigorous provisions of the old law have been sought to be rectified. But, still there are so many other aspects that have to be considered. In view of the lengthy discussions in the House during the three days I have referred to and in view of the various opinions that have come from the different States and from legal luminaries and other individuals and organisations from all over the country, certain changes have to be made in the arms laws, and probably the scope of the Government Bill and of the present Bill has to be reconsidered.

Here, two Bills have been introduced. I do not take much credit myself. I give all the credit for my Bill to the gentlemen and to the organisations and to the Government that had given opinions in 1954. It is practically on those opinions that my Bill has been drafted. Almost simultaneously, the Home Ministry has drafted a Bill. I do concede that it is an excellent Bill. It is based on the provisions of U.K. and U.S.A. where they are very liberal about weapons, but then we have to take into consideration both sides of the question. We have to consider the liberal grant of licences, lesser punishments and all that on the one hand, and at the same time, we have also to consider the necessity of law and order in the country.

I would not draw comparisons with the other Bill. I need not anticipate the provisions of the other Bill just at present except to say that it is a good Bill but that it requires new orientation to fit into our national requirements. I would now simply state a few points to which I have given some prominence in my Bill.

As I stated just now, it is very much based on the discussions in the House and the opinions received from others. It is to meet the requirements of a free country and at the same time to see that arms and ammunitions, particularly those of a dangerous type, do not easily get into the hands of reactionary elements, anti-social or anti-national elements, because that is also a point that we have had to bear in mind in recent years. We are finding by experience that on account of this outmoded Arms Act, patriotic citizens, *bona fide* persons who require arms and ammunition do not get licences; if they get licences, they do not get arms and ammunition freely or cheaply. At the same time anti-national or anti-social elements are finding it easy to get the most dangerous type of weapons.

You read in the papers every day of bombs, of bomb explosions here and there even in a city like Delhi, the metropolis of the country, with your police and military forces, and there is no check, no arrest, no action, nothing whatever. You read of explosions with a view to sabotage railway lines or to kill innocent persons, in crowds and otherwise. These things are going on. You read of dacoit gangs and we are not able to control them, gangs which are using not the ordinary 0·12 bore guns but more serious weapons—0·303, bren guns, sten guns, hand grenades, rifle grenades and so on. This is the position in our country today which any arms law must take into consideration. You have got to ensure that anti-social elements, those who are a danger to the country, those who by a single bomb can destroy a number of innocent lives or destroy property, do not get weapons so easily as they are doing; on the other hand, we have got to ensure that people who are law-abiding citizens do not find it difficult to get weapons. We have got to see that those, whose antecedents or whose inclinations do not disentitle them, get the proper facilities to get

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licences and get weapons and ammunitions also.

I have suggested that in the case of one category of weapons, that is, the dangerous type of weapons, bombs, hand-grenades, military type weapons, the automatic or semi-automatic or autoloading weapons and "gangster" weapons, as far as possible, they should not get into the hands of dangerous elements. Unlike the Government Bill which provides the same punishment in respect of these dangerous weapons as for ordinary crop protection weapons as well as even knives and other things in declared areas, I have provided the maximum punishment in the case of these dangerous weapons. I have provided that no licence can be granted for these—what I call—"prohibited weapons." I have also tried to change the criminal procedure to this extent that bail may not be given in cases where prohibited weapons are possessed or used.

I want that as far as dangerous weapons of any kind are concerned—and I respectfully submit to Government that they should also have that approach—deterrent punishment shall be provided, and action should be so facilitated that none of the dacoit gangs and saboteurs get these weapons easily or venture to use them for fear of the punishment and other liabilities involved.

Regarding the other weapons, I have suggested that there should be two categories; one category, namely, the ordinary 12-bore (smooth bore) guns, the .22 bore rifle for shooting practice, and muzzle-loaders should be given to people more easily than the higher-bore rifles, pistols and revolvers. In every case, however, normally, the antecedents of the people or the applicants are to be considered, and it should be ensured whether they are lunatics or not, because if they are lunatics, they cannot be given; it should also be ascertained whether they have been convicted for serious offences against property or person. That is a common reason for refusal. As far as the higher bore rifles are concerned, that is, rifles with higher than .22 bore, and revolvers and pistols, I have suggested that they may be refused also on some special reason, but then the person to whom they are refused has the right to appeal, and has the right to get a copy of the order and to appeal against the order refusing the licence, to the next higher authority.

Mr. Chairman: I hope the hon. Member will conclude soon. How much time will he take?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I shall take another twenty minutes, if I am permitted, because we are changing a law after nearly eighty years.

Mr. Chairman: I think the usual time permitted for the Mover is half an hour. If the hon. Member wants, he can take another five minutes.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I am sorry; I may find it difficult to conclude so soon. I would take at least the ten minutes that remain today, and a little more if you would permit me.

Mr. Chairman: I think the matter will be thrashed out in the Select Committee if it comes into being.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I should not anticipate what Government will say in regard to the Select Committee; it all depends on the Government's desire.

To continue what I was saying, I have tried to divide arms into three categories, but it is not all arms, but only fire-arms. To that extent, I have adopted the American Fire-Arms Act of 1937 and the British Fire-Arms Act of 1937.

My Bill relates only to fire-arms; it does not relate to swords, swordsticks, bows and arrows, knives and other things which may be weapons

of offence and defence, and which, at the same time, in no other country than India are treated as "arms". That is another point that I have provided for. Of course, Government also takes into consideration firearms; but it has also "arms" to be prohibited in certain contingencies to be considered as objectionable. For that, I would submit, it is not necessary to incorporate in this Act, but it can very well be prevented under section 144 of the Cr. P. C. or under any other law.

I have also added one proviso. Of course, it is for the House and for the Government to consider it. It was more or less the content of my old Bill, namely, that certain classes shall be given exemption under the Act. Originally, I had proposed that they should be removed altogether from the purview of the Arms Act because under the Arms Rules of 1924, until 1950, some of these classes, particularly, the Members of the Legislatures were granted exemption. I wanted that concession to be extended to all gazetted officers, officers of the Home Guard and other organisations. Now, in view of some of the opinions, I thought it better to bring it under the exemption clause.

As you know, there is a class of exemptees even now under section 27 of the old Act. That is, certain people have been exempted either as a class or in their individual capacity from the operation of the Arms Act. The result is that they are having weapons, a lot of them; they are having a lot of ammunition, but there is no register maintained in any government office as to how many weapons and how much quantity of ammunition they possess.

I have had the opportunity of seeing some of these exemptees and others and I find that there are people who have got hundreds of weapons including weapons of the dangerous types. Of course, some of them are very good men; some of them are good sportsmen. But, then, there are some in that category also who, we hear, are selling their arms and ammunition. And, it is said, that the arms and ammunition that go to the dacoit gangs on the border areas have sometimes been sold by some of these people.

So, I have made some changes under the corresponding clauses of my Bill that those classes of exemptees who are now enjoying the exemption will continue to have that exemption but to a limited extent. Along with them, also Members of Legislatures, gazetted officers of Government, members of the Home Guards, Rifle Associations recognised by Government, semi-Defence organisations, civilian Defence organisations, all these people will enjoy the same privilege also to a limited extent.

I have put down the limits, that all these classes cannot be refused licences but they must have some sort of licence or permit which is entered in some register with Government. Government must know or the concerned District and other officers must know how many weapons a particular person under that category possesses. Then, think of limiting it if necessary; at any rate, keep a list of the weapons and ammunition possessed by them, taking control over the ammunition purchased by them, because we do not want these exemptees to have a huge armoury; keeping all sorts of arms and ammunition and clandestinely selling them to the dacoit gangs who are creating trouble on our borders.

There is another provision which I have tried to put in and that is about the supply of arms and ammunitions in our country. Although the Government decided to relax the laws and help the rifle movement and the rifle organisations in the country to develop marksmanship and discipline in the nation, for the last two years, since the imports of arms and ammunitions had been banned the prices of arms and ammunitions had gone up. For instance, the Eley cartridge which was selling previously at a much lower price is now selling at Rs. 100 per 100, one catridge for

[Shri U. C. Patnaik].

a rupee. Similarly .22 which was selling at Rs. 6 per 100 is now selling at Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 per hundred. Weapons which were costing Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 have now gone up to Rs. 600 or Rs. 700. The old stockists are now making huge profits at the expense of the nation taking advantage of the ban on arms and ammunitions. On the supply side, Government has taken no steps to see that weapons are available to people at reasonable cost. We are paying ten times the old cost for these weapons because of the so-called manufacture here. I have suggested that the Government of India should take into consideration the needs of the country to see that arms and ammunitions are manufactured either in the ordnance factories or otherwise.

Mr. Chairman: I hope the hon. Member will conclude his speech today. There are a number of hon. Members who are anxious to take part in the debate and I am sure the hon. Mover himself is anxious that they should take part. I request him to conclude his speech at 5 today.

Shri Joachim Alva: We do not grudge him, Sir, any time because he has taken enormous interest in this matter and has done all the spade work.

Mr. Chairman: That is why I have given him more time. But only 1 hour and 30 minutes have been allotted. There are others also who want to participate and I am sure the hon. Member will himself accommodate others on this important Bill.... (*Interruptions*) I will request him to conclude at 5, if possible.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, I agree with Shri Joachim Alva that he should be given the time he wants.

Mr. Chairman: I have no objection if that is the pleasure of the House.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I have suggested that rifle clubs and others should not be refused permission for 12 bore and muzzle loading guns for personal defence and also for the defence of crops.

There is another thing. The High Courts have always interpreted the Act to the benefit of the accused person with the result that many accused have got off on the ground that exclusive possession was not proved as there were other adult members in the family and so on. I have suggested that on the one hand we should grant "retainer-licences" not only to the person who gets the licence but also to some members of the family. But at the same time I want to close up the avenue to escape. If he possesses any licensed weapon, I say that all the adult male members of the family may be liable for action being taken against them.

These are all questions that may be considered at the Select Committee stage either in this Bill or in the other Bill. What I want to say is this. These are the points that we have to keep in view....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may resume his seat.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I will take only five minutes.

Mr. Chairman: If the House is agreeable to sit for five minutes....

Shri Joachim Alva: No, Sir. He can continue the next day.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, he has material for more than five minutes.

Mr. Chairman: What does the Mover say? Is he willing to conclude his speech today?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: It would be better, Sir, if I get 5 or 10 minutes on the next day.

Mr. Chairman: All right. He may continue on the next day.

17.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March, 9 1959/Phalguna 18, 1880 (Saka)

Friday, March 6, 1959/Phalguna 15, 1880 (Saka)

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1529	P.T.O. concession for Coffee Board Staff	4808
1530	Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956.	4808
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1532	Land for refugee markets and colonies.	4809–10
1533	Export of Indian goods to Afghanistan.	4810
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1535	Textile Mill, Khargon.	4811–12
1536	Raids by dacoits from Pakistan.	4812–13
1537	Export of Gunny bags to Burma.	4813
1538	Import of cotton.	4814
1540	Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Ltd. Bangalore.	4814—16
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1543	Plan Publicity in Punjab.	4816
1544	Prime Minister's Relief Fund.	4817
1545	Cost structure of industries.	4817

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER . . . 4818—21

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) made a statement in response to a notice for a motion for adjournment regarding the U.S. Pakistan bilateral military pact signed on the 5th March 1959.

COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 4823-24

The following papers were laid on the Table

(1) A copy of each of the following Reports under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

(ii) Annual Report of the Travancore Minerals (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 208 dated the 21st February, 1959 under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, making certain further amendment to the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955.

(3) A copy of Notification No. S. O. 250 dated the 31st January, 1959 as amended by Notification No. S.O. 291 dated the 7th February, 1959 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(4) A copy of the Report on the working of the Coir Board for the half-year ending the 30th September, 1958 under sub-section (i) of Section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES PRESENTED 4824

Ninth Report was presented.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE . 4824—27

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri called the attention of the Prime Minister to the resumption of activities by the hostile Nagas in Assam.

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CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—*contd*

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon) made a statement in regard thereto.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER. 4827-28

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) made a statement regarding notice of closure of the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, Kanpur.

BILL INTRODUCED . . 4831

The Appropriation (Railways) Bill. 1959.

REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADOPTED. 4832-33

Thirty-sixth Report was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1958-59 . 4833—86

Discussion on Demand for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways for 1958-59 commenced and concluded. The Demands were voted in full.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED. . . 4886-87

Thirty-sixth Report was adopted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS INTRODUCED 4887-88, 4892

(1) The Hydrogenation of Oils (Offences) Bill, 1959 by Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria.

(2) The Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1959 (Amendment of section 46 and insertion of new section 53A) by Shri Ram Krishan Gupta.

(3) The Bank of Patiala Merger Bill, 1959 by Shri Ram Krishan Gupta

COLUMNS

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—MOTION FOR INTRODUCTION NEGATIVED . . . . 4888—92

The Co-operative Societies Bill, 1959 by Shri Arjun Singh Bnadauria.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—WITHDRAWN . 4893—4935

Further discussion on the motion to consider the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of sections 56 and 123) by Shri Radha Raman was concluded. The Bill was withdrawn by leave of Lok Sabha.

COLUMNS

MOTION TO REFER PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO SELECT COMMITTEE UNDER CONSIDERATION 4935—48

Shri U. C. Patnaik moved that the Indian Fire-Arms Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The consideration was not concluded.

AGENDA FOR MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1959/PHALGUNA 18, 1880 (SAKA) .

Consideration and passing of the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1959 and General Discussion on the Budget (General), 1959-60.